THE TIMES

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Times2

Poor maternity care left us in danger, say one in four mothers

TIMES Health Commission

Rachel Sylvester

Nearly a quarter of mothers say the maternity care they received left them or their baby in danger.

Almost a third were not given all of the medical care they needed at the birth and 9 per cent said their baby did not get all the necessary care.

A quarter of mothers rated the maternity care they had received during the past five years as "poor" and 23 per cent believed they or their baby had been put at risk.

The survey for The Times Health Commission raises fresh questions about NHS maternity services in England after scandals that have highlighted serious safety concerns and cover-ups and bullying in some units.

Last month the Times commission found that the NHS was spending more than twice as much on the cost of harm caused by maternity services as on maternity care itself.

In the survey, conducted by Mumsnet, 19 per cent of mothers said they received a standard of care that resulted in them being put at risk and 17 per cent said their baby had been in danger.

Almost half of respondents said they had not been given enough information to make decisions about planning for the birth of their child and a third did not feel sufficiently informed about pain relief during labour. More than a fifth said the care they received was "not kind and caring".

Several respondents in the survey of 1,018 users said that they had been given a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder and some reported terrifying flashbacks. One mother said she had suffered "long-term trauma" since the birth of her baby. Having been refused

Continued on page 4

GRAHAM HUNT/BNPS



Holiday heat Beachgoers in Weymouth, Dorset, enjoyed the sunshine on the warmest day of the year, with 24.4C recorded at Plymouth. Passenger chaos, page 13

British police bid to stop migrants leaving Africa

● **Officers to work with Tunisia and Algeria** ● **Italy warns 400,000 will try to cross Med**

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

Police from the National Crime Agency will help countries in north Africa to identify and break up people-smuggling gangs in an attempt to stop an expected surge of hundreds of thousands of migrants trying to leave the continent for Europe this summer.

The Italian government has forecast that 400,000 migrants will seek to enter Italy from north Africa this year — four times as many as arrived last year — The Times has been told.

In the first three months of this year, 80,000 migrants entered Italy having crossed the Mediterranean via boats and other irregular means, quadruple the number that arrived over the same period last year.

The Home Office fears that this will lead to a surge in migrants trying to travel to the UK in small boats and in the back of lorries later this year. So far 7,569 migrants have crossed the Channel in small boats this year, a quarter fewer than the same time last year. However, the Home Office is expecting more crossings in the summer and is beefing up efforts to curb the gangs that organise the journeys.

Robert Jenrick, the immigration minister, will begin a five-day tour today of north Africa and Europe. He will travel to Tunisia and Algeria to offer "all the assets" of the UK state to help to "disrupt, degrade and deny gangs at source". Jenrick will also meet counterparts in Libya, a hub for African migrants on their way to Europe.

After years in which governments have spent millions of pounds trying to stop migrants leaving the French coast,

Continued on page 2

Work from home? Not if there's a bot in the office

Katie Prescott
Technology Business Editor

The explosion of artificial intelligence will lure people back to the office as they try to stand out from the bots, according to the chairman of one of the big four accountancy firms.

Kevin Ellis, of PwC, said that as AI became more accessible and widely used by employees it would turbocharge the end of working from home: "The latest wave of AI will likely bring people back to the office. People are going to want to learn from others face to face, and the best way a human can differentiate themselves from a robot is in person."

The company held a livestream event on the technology for 25,000 staff last week. Ellis told them: "For professional services, where researching and summarising data is a key part of junior roles, AI has the potential to fast-track year one trainees to year three. You're freeing people up to do more."

He added that the acceleration came with challenges: "This will in turn require more coaching to equip people for more responsibility sooner, and impart knowledge that would typically be acquired over a longer period."

AI may boost the return to the office, but more than 40 per cent of civil servants are still working primarily from home, according to analysis of data from the Office for National Statistics.

The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) examined ONS data from January to March and found that private sector workers were more likely than public sector workers to be working primarily from home.

The analysis found that almost a quarter of private sector staff work mainly from home, with less than a fifth of public sector workers doing the same.

Many public sector workers, such as teachers and doctors, cannot work from home, prompting the CIPD to break public sector workers down into categories. They found that the most likely to be working primarily from home, at 44.4 per cent, were those classed as "central government and civil service".

Apprentices quit, page 33

VISIT…

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Today's highlights

7.30am **Rachel Sylvester**, Times columnist and head of The Times Health Commission
8.05am **Lesia Vasylenko**, Ukrainian MP, on the attacks on Kyiv
8.20am **Sir Chris Bonington**, right, mountaineer
11am **Nick Baird**, former British ambassador to Turkey, on the country's election results
11.30am **Peter Hillary**, son of the mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary, marks 70 years since Everest was conquered



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TODAY'S EDITION

'Toxic' culture on This Morning

ITV has been accused of presiding over a "toxic" culture on the *This Morning* show while the presenter Phillip Schofield had a relationship with a much younger colleague. Ranj Singh, a contributor, said he had raised concerns about bullying. **Page 5**

Johnson defies diary demand

Boris Johnson is resisting Cabinet Office pressure to publish his No 10 diaries to "back up" his claim that about a dozen events he held at Downing Street and Chequers during the pandemic were lawful. He has been referred to the police over the gatherings. **Page 6**

Party business hits taxpayer

The taxpayer will be liable for 80 per cent of a Covid loan taken out by the Princess of Wales's parents to help a children's party business that they founded in 1987 but which collapsed this month. NatWest, which provided the loan, is owed £220,000. **Page 11**

61 days since Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained in Russia #FreeEvan



Erdogan claims Turkey election

President Erdogan has claimed victory in Turkey's election run-off, securing another term that means he will serve a quarter century in power. He defeated Kemal Kilicdaroglu, a secularist who stood for a broad coalition of parties. **Page 28**

Fewer complete apprenticeships

Apprenticeship completion rates have fallen from 65 per cent in 2019 to 58 per cent in 2021, according to a response to a freedom of information request. The figure casts doubt over the apprenticeship levy, which aims to increase the supply of skilled workers. **Page 33**

Verstappen wins in Monaco

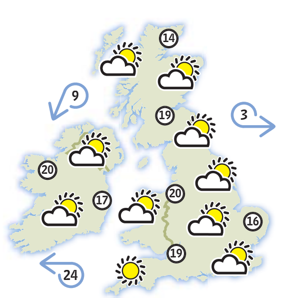
The Red Bull Formula One driver Max Verstappen came through a mid-race downpour to win the Monaco Grand Prix, with Fernando Alonso, of Aston Martin, in second. The victory was Verstappen's fourth in six races this year. **Pages 58-59**

COMMENT 23
THUNDERER 24
LEADING ARTICLES 27
ENTERPRISE NETWORK 40
REGISTER 45
NIGHT SKY 47
SPORT 51
CROSSWORD 60
TV & RADIO TIMES2

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THE WEATHER



Staying dry with long spells of hazy sunshine, cloudier across nothern Scotland. **Full forecast, page 49**

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Plan to impose price caps on food a 'harebrained gimmick'

Isabella Fish Retail Editor
George Grylls
Defence and Political Correspondent

A government plan to encourage supermarkets to impose 1970s-style price caps on food staples to help with rising costs are a "harebrained gimmick" that would push inflation on to other products and cut competition, industry bosses and MPs have warned.

Aides inside Downing Street are understood to be drawing up proposals that would seek to get retailers to charge the lowest possible amount for basic products such as bread and milk.

The plan was suggested as the price of necessary food items continues to rise, with more than a third of consumers having changed their weekly shop as a result, according to a YouGov poll for the Times.

The opt-in scheme, modelled on an agreement in France, would allow supermarkets to select which items they capped, The Sunday Telegraph reported. No 10 emphasised that it was not issuing price controls and that any scheme would be voluntary.

Supermarket bosses have said that capping the price of basic food items would not work and questioned how the government would put a voluntary price cap into practice.

"I think it is a harebrained gimmick that will expose the government to ridicule," the chairman of one large British company said on the basis of anonymity. "It will have no impact at all on supermarkets except to push inflation on to other products, reduce competition, encourage cheap imports and reduce grower and producer margins."

Some backbench Conservative MPs also questioned the decision. Jacob Rees-Mogg, the former business secretary, said price and incomes policies "don't work". He said: "Ultimately, supply is only available at the market price and fixing a lower price reduces supply while increasing demand."

Sir John Redwood, a former adviser to Margaret Thatcher, said: "A statutory price control would be disastrous. Competition is the only reliable way of keeping prices down."

At a meeting with food manufacturers last week, Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, agreed to engage with the industry on measures to ease pressure on household budgets. Hunt has said he would back an increase in interest rates if it curbed higher prices and soaring inflation — even if that risked plunging the UK into recession.

Although down from 10.1 per cent, the consumer prices index of inflation remains high at 8.7 per cent. Food prices are expected to keep rising, having already increased by 19.1 per cent in the year to March.

The YouGov poll found that 48 per cent of voters have moved to cheaper brands, 43 per cent have cut back on the amount of food they buy, and 30 per cent have changed where they shop. Twenty-two per cent said they had not changed their shopping habits.

The Bank of England said at the start of this month that it expected overall inflation to fall more slowly than it hoped, mostly due to unexpectedly big and persistent rises in food prices.

Andrew Opie, the director of food and sustainability at the British Retail Consortium, said that 1970s-style price controls would "not make a jot of difference to prices".

He said that high food prices were a "direct result of the soaring cost of energy, transport and labour, as well as higher prices paid to food manufacturers and farmers".

Taxman under fire after business form blunder

Andrew Ellson

The taxman has been forced to apologise after admitting that failures on its website left entrepreneurs unable to complete the paperwork necessary to set up their businesses.

HM Revenue & Customs said that "technical issues" meant that an anti-money laundering form which certain companies need to complete financial transactions was not usable.

It also admitted that its website did not explain to smaller businesses that they did not need to complete it and could register for anti-money laundering supervision elsewhere on the site.

HMRC is also issuing guidance to call handlers after confessing they did not know about the forms or where to direct entrepreneurs who called them for help.

In January owners of small businesses and the self-employed said they were kept on hold for hours when they tried to call the HMRC helpline. Many said they were then cut off.

Martin McTague, chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses, said: "Delay, uncertainty and a lack of communication on HMRC's part act as a drag on productivity, and risk deterring entrepreneurship. Why bother setting up your own business if dealing with the tax authorities is a massive pain?

"Every business needs to be confident that any issues it has with taxes or compliance will be dealt with swiftly, efficiently and transparently."

The federation says tax compliance costs small firms £25 billion a year, with each spending an average of seven days dealing with HMRC bureaucracy.

Nimesh Shah, chief executive, of the accountancy firm, Blick Rothenberg, said: "HMRC is an archaic and hugely inefficient beast, there are numerous departments with vast numbers who don't properly connect with each other and it's very confusing for the taxpayer to speak to the right person."

HMRC said that customers seeking anti-money laundering supervision could register online. It added: "We apologise for the issues registering with us. We are urgently looking at how we can make our guidance clearer."

Labour accused of oil and gas firms vendetta

George Grylls

Grant Shapps has defended the Conservative Party's support for North Sea oil and gas drilling after Labour promised to block all future developments.

The energy secretary said Sir Keir Starmer was pursuing an "ideological vendetta" against oil and gas companies but that the government was "pragmatic" in awarding licences.

The Labour leader will use a speech in Scotland next month to pledge an end to new drilling. He will announce that a Labour government would borrow only to invest in green energy.

"Keir's Labour Party is practical and ambitious for our country, in stark contrast to this government's refusal to act in the nation's interests," Labour said.

Shapps said the invasion of Ukraine demonstrated the need to continue drilling, "while investing in the clean technologies for the future".

Starmer's green energy borrowing bonanza, Patrick Maguire, page 23

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
New moves to curb migrants

the initiative signals a new front in Rishi Sunak's efforts to "stop the boats," one of his top five stated goals.

Before his tour, Jenrick told The Times: "We're taking the fight to the people-smuggling gangs upstream to help prevent dangerous and unnecessary journeys long before migrants are within reach of the UK.

"Just as we've deepened diplomatic and security co-operation on illegal migration with France, Italy and Albania, we are working to enhance our co-operation with other key transit and source countries for migration to tackle this shared challenge. It is right that we use all the assets of the state to disrupt, degrade and deny gangs at source."

Under a new diplomatic and security co-operation agreement, officers from the National Crime Agency (NCA), which leads the fight to combat serious and organised crime and is known as Britain's FBI, will work alongside their counterparts in northern Africa. They will agree to share intelligence and expertise and work with local authorities against immigration crime gangs. In return the NCA will be able to gather evidence that can be used to shut down other parts of their networks.

In March this year the UK agreed an unprecedented deal worth £480 million over three years to invest in police, technology and intelligence to help to identify smuggling gangs in northern France. Now Jenrick has been given the approval of the prime minister to offer "all the assets of the British state" to African countries to stop migrants heading towards the UK.

Sunak has invested political capital in the Illegal Migration Bill, which includes proposals that bar all migrants who arrive illegally from claiming asylum, gives powers to detain migrants indefinitely and deport them to Rwanda. He is hoping that a Court of Appeal decision due as early as next week will back the Rwanda policy.

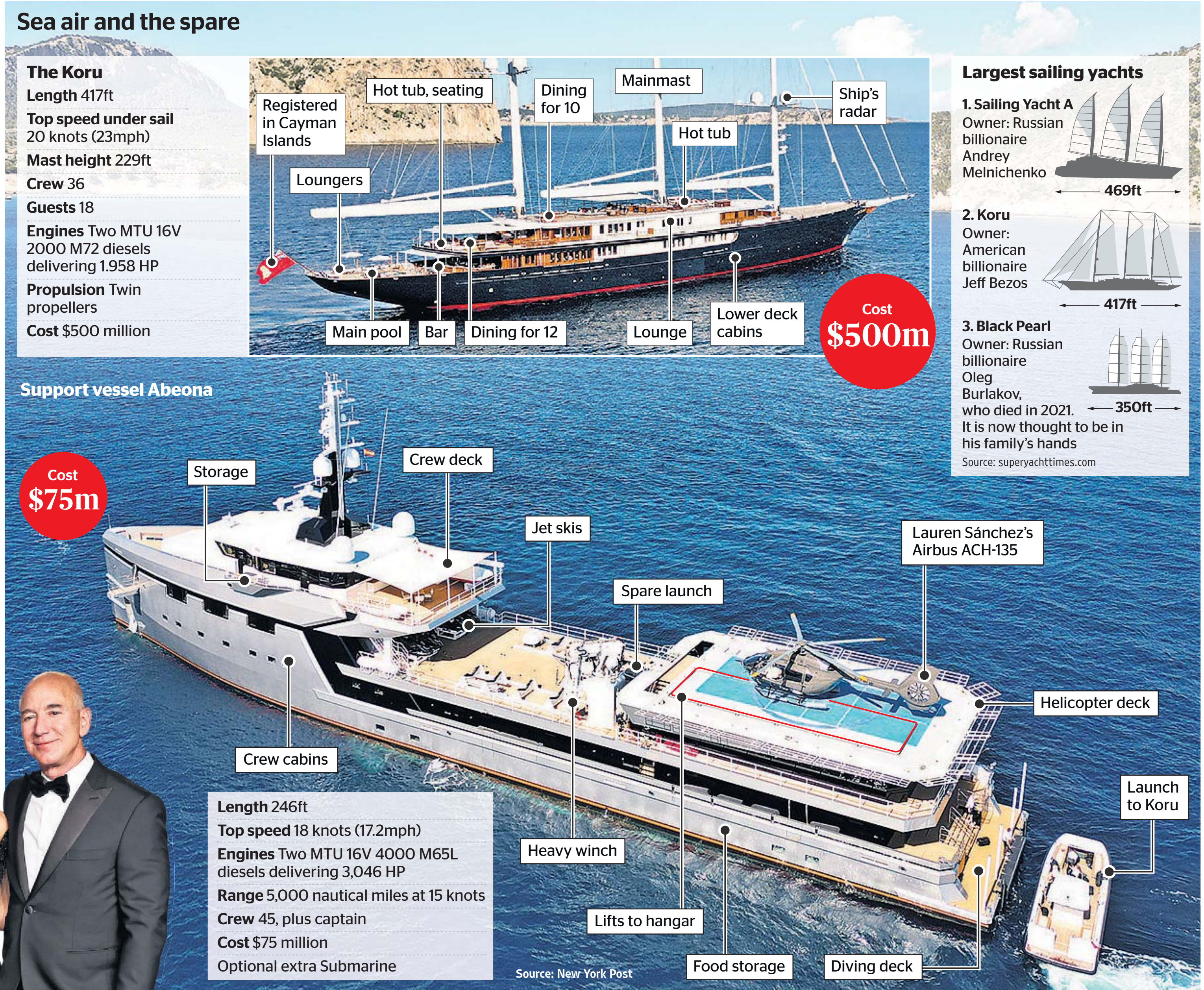
The Home Office has appointed Julian Braithwaite, one of Britain's most experienced diplomats in Europe, as a director-general in the department tasked with building partnerships internationally to fight immigration crime.

After visiting Tunisia and Algeria, Jenrick will go to Italy, where he will meet Giorgia Meloni, the prime minister, who is pledging to put illegal migration on the top of her agenda at the G7. He will speak to French interior ministers in Paris and then see beaches in Calais from where most small boats set off.

The Home Office is to begin a campaign on Facebook and Instagram to warn people in Albania to ignore social media posts enticing them to pay smugglers to travel to the UK.

Bezos leaves 'em trailing in his wake

When the billionaire boss of Amazon puts to sea, an extraordinary support boat comes too, **Will Pavia** writes



Henry VIII had Thomas Cromwell to order his affairs and Samuel Johnson had James Boswell trailing in his wake.

The same is apparently true of superyachts, which now arrive with an assistant carrying the bags. As Jeff Bezos's gigantic sailing schooner was sighted cruising the Mediterranean, beside it appeared the largest support boat ever.

Abeona, apparently named for the Roman goddess of outward journeys, is a 246ft motor yacht able to cruise 5,000 miles on a tank of fuel. It has a helicopter pad, storage for all manner of boats and marine gear and a crane to winch them in and out of the water. There is also room to sleep 45.

Yet it is a number two — an understudy to Koru, the three-masted, $500 million schooner launched from a yard in the Netherlands this year.

Reid Stowe, an artist and seafarer who made the longest ocean voyage in history, of 1,152 days, aboard a schooner he built that is now docked in New Jersey, said the support boat, known as a "shadow", would be "something they just have fun with and maybe it has the little toys on board".

Such boats generally stow all manner of playthings, including four-wheeled motorbikes, supercars and submarines. But Stowe was staggered by its size. "It's a mighty big boat," he said. "I don't know why they want it that big."

It was the second largest yacht ever built by Damen Yachting, the Dutch company that began work on it in 2019. During construction, the identity of its owner was kept secret. Now Bezos and his partner, Lauren Sánchez, have been seen flying by helicopter to the Abeona and taking a launch from there to Koru.

Sánchez is a helicopter pilot and the builders of the Abeona had been asked to give it a helicopter hangar, capable of housing her aircraft, with an elevator that would lift it to and from a landing pad on the hangar's roof at the stern.



Jeff Bezos and his partner, Lauren Sánchez, who flies the helicopter

This would be required aboard the support vessel because Koru, with its traditional lines and its three masts, could not support a landing pad.

Koru, the world's second largest sailing yacht at 417ft, has won praise for its classic design from around the world. "It's beautiful," Stowe said.

He suspected that despite its size, Koru might be less capable of staying at sea for a long time, because it had so many systems that required maintenance. But he appreciated its smooth lines. "It may be state-of-the-art but he didn't try to make it look like something funny, or like a spaceship," he said.

Koru is said to require a crew of 40, with room for 18 guests. Don Anderson, a former captain of M5, the world's largest single-masted sailing yacht, said Koru would be "one of the most ecological yachts out there, with its sails and also with the technology that will be aboard" — a gentle carbon footprint that could perhaps be made heavier by the enormous motor yacht puttering along behind it.

On a sailing yacht, "you're more susceptible to the elements," Anderson told The New York Times. "But you can leave California, and once you get past the Catalinas you can basically surf downwind all the way to Hawaii. All you need to do is run with the waves."

When Koru arrived off Cannes for the film festival, dwarfing the yachts of other billionaires, it was noted that the prow bore a sculpture of a voluptuous mermaid who looked a lot like Sánchez.

Brad Stone, author of *Amazon Unbound*, who was the first to identify Koru and Abeona as Bezos's boats, has argued that they mark the end of a transformation in the public persona of one of the world's richest men.

In the early years of Amazon, he had appeared wholly preoccupied with the company, riding a Segway around the office. He lived outside Seattle with his wife and four children and guarded their privacy. He showed little interest in the usual diversions of the superrich, such as collecting sports cars or art.

But by the late 2010s Bezos's friend Jamie Dimon, the JP Morgan chief executive, told the author that "Jeff was like a kid in a candy store. It was all new to him. He was so focused on Amazon for a long time. Then he gradually became a citizen of the world."

Sailor's three-month voyage in a box (poop deck not included)

Kaya Burgess

Some cross the Atlantic by luxury liner, but Andrew Bedwell is making the 1,900-mile trip in a handmade boat that is too small to lie down in, comparing it to spending three months "stuck in a wheelie bin on a rollercoaster".

Bedwell, 49, left St John's, Newfoundland, on Saturday in a glass-fibre vessel that is just over a metre in length, significantly shorter than his 1.8 metre stature. He will not even be able to stretch his legs out fully while sitting.

If Bedwell lands in one piece in late August, he will beat the record, set 30 years ago, for the smallest boat to have made a transatlantic crossing by about half a metre.

The sailmaker, from Scarisbrick, Lancashire, who delivers yachts around the world, spent three years building his 600kg craft, Big C, and said he had tried to make it "as bulletproof as possible".

He expects it to capsize en route and has designed it to right itself should it do so during the storms he has forecast. Should he need to remain inside, the air will last for 40 minutes. He will be strapped in with a harness during bad weather and will have a support crew to track his progress.

Bedwell will only able to stand to stretch his legs and, during calmer weather, perform exercises prescribed by a physiotherapist. He aims to take 20-minute naps as often as he can but these, too, will have to be taken seated. The lavatory facilities are "over the side", he explained, though a diet of vitamin-based drinks and food bags of raisins, beef jerky and fat should minimise the need. A desalinator will provide him with drinkable water.

"I'm quite chilled, I feel good, and it's time to go," he said before departing. "Everything has pulled together exceptionally well, there's nothing that I am apprehensive of on the vessel at all. But you never know, you could hit an iceberg."





Andrew Bedwell will be seated on his voyage from Newfoundland to Britain

News

PETER BYRNE/PA



Liver birds A Spitfire, Lancaster and Hurricane of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight at Pier Head in Liverpool for the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic

Quintagram® No 1640

Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Wicked (3)

_ _ _

2 Almost (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

3 Culpable, blameworthy (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 Jumping insect (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Salience (10)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	B	B	C	C	D
E	E	G	I	I	I	I	K
L	L	L	N	N	O	R	R
T	T	T	T	U	Y	Y	Y

Solutions MindGames in Times2
Cryptic clues every day online

House fire kills girl, 5

A five-year-old girl has died in a house fire in a small village in Pembrokeshire. Alysia Salisbury was described by her family as a "beautiful daughter and sister". The fire broke out in the house in Pontyglasier, near Crymych, which has a population of 300, shortly before 10pm on Saturday. Police said that emergency services tried in vain to save Alysia. Police and the fire service are working to establish the cause of the blaze.

Women felt 'powerless' in births that ended in emergency surgery

T TIMES Health Commission

Georgia Lambert

Amy Worrall-Thompson conceived in October 2019 and had a straightforward pregnancy until Covid hit.

Unsure of her options, she paid for an online course from the Positive Birthing Company to design a plan that included a water birth and avoided an epidural and induction. "I looked at it like it was a sort of menu when it's absolutely not the case," she said.

In July 2020 Worrall-Thompson, 35, who was overdue at 41 weeks and five days, was admitted to Royal Surrey County Hospital. She wanted to give birth in the midwifery-led unit rather than a medical ward but was told this would only be possible if she was induced and didn't go over 42 weeks.

However, she and her husband, Paul, 35, felt that they were not fully informed about the potential consequences of being induced. Worrall-Thomson said: "What I didn't know is when you agree to be induced, it makes the likelihood of medical interventions much higher."

Contractions were started and she was told that she could give birth in the midwife unit. However, she made little progress, so she was put on a permanent monitor discounting the unit.

Doctors broke her waters and to avoid infection, Worrall-Thompson was put on a hormone drip. "The doctors and midwives were giving me and my husband conflicting information. They said I couldn't have an epidural but the midwife was telling us that it was still an option. We were getting mixed messages.

"Time passed and a clip was put on my baby's head and I became fully dilated. I was immobilised, given gas and air and tried to deliver naturally but I felt like I was dying." She was taken to surgery after about 48 hours of labour, given the epidural and a ventouse vacuum delivery was attempted. It failed and doctors performed an emergency section. Their daughter, Penny was born fit and healthy shortly afterwards.

Worrall-Thompson received follow-up aftercare at Ashford and St Peter's Hospital, where she was told by a midwife that she could take care of her section wound herself. "She was concerned with the baby — making sure she was healthy but when it came to me … I said 'Can you check the wound?', because I hadn't taken the dressing off and she said, 'No, no, you can do that'."

"Not one person checked it at any point. I had to remove the dressing on my own and hope that I wasn't going to crack open," she said.

Six weeks later, she organised a birth reflection appointment at the hospital to understand what had happened. The session was held in the same delivery room and the midwife was shocked at what had taken place.

Worrall-Thompson recovered physically but suffered from severe post-natal depression. She said she would have had a better experience if there was better collaboration between the mother and the community midwife about birthing plans in the first instance, and if the doctors and midwives were clear in their communication throughout the birth.



Amy Worrall-Thompson and Sarah Doherty, below, had bad experiences



"If I have another child I will do multiple birth plans for multiple eventualities not just the one, that is my 'do or die' kind of scenario because it left me feeling I had no power."

Amy Stubbs, the professional director of midwifery and paediatric nursing at Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Throughout the entire maternity journey, our maternity team works collaboratively with women to prioritise safe, personalised care and a positive experience for mothers and babies."

Andrea Lewis, Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's chief nurse, said: "We are sorry that Ms Worrall-Thompson feels like she hasn't received the level of care she expected. We take all feedback seriously and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with her if she would be willing so that we can investigate and make any improvements that may be required."

Sarah Doherty, 36, was classified as a "high-risk" mother and suffered multiple haemorrhages after doctors failed to remove her placenta during the births of her two children.

Doherty, the lead training co-ordinator at an engineering company, lives with multiple sclerosis, and is seen regularly at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge. She had a consultant-led pregnancy at Ipswich Hospital and after the birth of her son her full placenta did not deliver, so doctors had to retrieve it in parts, leading to blood loss.

About three weeks after giving birth, Doherty visited her GP with a high temperature and flu symptoms. "She fobbed me off and said, 'This is what it's like to be a new mum. It's exhaustion.' "

Doherty suffered a severe haemorrhage and was rushed to the early pregnancy unit in the Ipswich A&E department, where she was asked to sit on a chair for 45 minutes while waiting for a scan, despite bleeding heavily.

A large chunk of the placenta was still present in her body and the following morning, she had emergency removal surgery . After the birth of her son, she suffered two miscarriages.

Dr Angela Tillett, chief medical officer at East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We would urge her to contact us through our patient advice and liaison service."

New mothers say they were not supported

Continued from page 1

an epidural, despite requesting one, she said that the hospital "used me as a guinea pig for students to do my stitches, without anaesthetic and without my consent. It was barbaric and has put me off having another child."

Another described being "left alone and for too long waiting for C-section. My previous scar ruptured and my son suffered a stroke on delivery. He now suffers from cerebral palsy." One mother said she "felt very scared and alone [and] had to have counselling sessions after traumatic sudden premature birth".

Almost 60 per cent of respondents said they did not feel listened to by healthcare professionals. One mother said: "I wasn't allowed pain relief as a consultant mistakenly mixed my notes up with another patient. This patient had a history of substance abuse and this somehow ended up on my records."

Mothers also felt unsupported after the birth. One said: "I was left feeling like a bad mother right from the beginning of our journey together, which has left me with lasting regret and fears for having any more children."

Asked what would have made the most difference, one mother said: "Midwives with empathy. They hated their jobs and made that very clear by bullying vulnerable women who had just given birth."

Justine Roberts, the Mumsnet founder and CEO, said: "There's no doubt that maternity staff are stretched to their limit, but this is … a cultural problem which sees women ignored and their concerns trivialised."

Last year the Care Quality Commission rated 39 per cent of maternity units inspected in England as requiring improvement or inadequate.

‘Toxic culture’ inside ITV’s This Morning

Mario Ledwith
Alex Farber Media Correspondent

ITV bosses have been accused of presiding over a “toxic” culture on the *This Morning* show while the presenter Phillip Schofield was having a relationship with a much younger colleague.

A long-term contributor revealed he had raised concerns about a wider bullying culture on the programme.

Ranj Singh, a former resident doctor on the show, said: “It takes more than one person to create a culture.” The NHS paediatrician said that he raised concerns about a bullying culture only for his concerns to be whitewashed by executives.

The intervention will increase pressure on ITV after it emerged that an investigation had previously been carried out into Schofield’s relationship with a runner he first met as a teenager.



Holly Willoughby, 42, right, with Schofield, wrote on Instagram on Saturday: “When reports of this relationship first surfaced, I asked Phil directly if this was true and was told it was not.”

Schofield, 61, admitted that he had previously lied about the “unwise but not illegal” affair as he announced the end of his two-decade career with ITV on Friday. The presenter said that he had displayed “very bad judgment” in entering the relationship while still with his wife of 30 years, Stephanie Lowe, with whom he has two grown-up daughters.

Schofield first met his future lover when he was invited to give a talk at the boy’s theatre school. Schofield said that he had been asked to “help him get into television”.

The pair began an “on-off” consensual relationship in about 2016 when the man, then aged 20, was employed by ITV. A representative for Schofield said that he had no sexual communication or sexual relationship before the younger man worked at *This Morning*.

Singh said that while he was unaware of the truth about Schofield’s relationship with the man, the “issues at *This Morning* go far beyond him”. He said that he took concerns about the programme’s editor, Martin Frizell, to Emma Gormley, the managing director of daytime programmes at ITV Studios.

Singh said that he also took concerns “to the top” of ITV two years ago and was given assurances that changes would be made, but said he was ultimately frozen out of his contributor role. He said that other colleagues had raised similar concerns.

Speaking on the BBC show *Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg*, Nadine Dorries, the former culture secretary, said: “We know that there were complaints lodged with ITV over a long period of time. What happened to those complaints?”

ITV said that it had investigated the relationship in early 2020 and both parties had “categorically and repeatedly denied the rumours”.



Kevin Lygo, the director of TV, is one of several bosses now under scrutiny

Eamonn Holmes, a former *This Morning* host, tweeted on Friday that “four high members of ITV management knew what sort of man he [Schofield] was … and NEVER once took action to prevent him taking advantage of his position over young people”.

Last night it was reported that ITV has lost millions of pounds in advertising since Schofield admitted his affair. Arnold Clark, the car dealer which is *This Morning’s* main sponsor, has announced that it would not renew its existing deal, The Sun reported.

The revelation comes after pictures of Schofield were removed from ITV studios, according to show insiders. ITV insisted that *This Morning* would return to screens today, with Dermot O’Leary and Alison Hammond presenting. Willoughby is on holiday and will return to the show next Monday.

Esther McVey, the Tory MP for Tatton, said she believed it would be “a matter of days” before executives resigned from ITV, whose bosses include Carolyn McCall, the chief executive, and Kevin Lygo, director of TV.

ITV said: “We are fully committed to providing every opportunity for anyone who works with us to raise any concern they may have.”

Gregg Wallace ‘quit show after upsetting factory staff’

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

Gregg Wallace’s decision to quit *Inside The Factory* came after his banter during a trip to the Nestlé factory was considered inappropriate by female staff, it has emerged.

The MasterChef host stepped back from his role fronting the BBC2 show after seven series in March saying he wanted to spend more time with his son, aged 3. But an incident at a Nestlé factory in York at the start of the year contributed to his decision.

During the visit, Wallace engaged in banter with staff that he believed to be friendly but was considered inappropriate. The comments are understood to have related to the weight of female staff members and were not sexual.

A complaint was made to Voltage TV, the production company, which asked him to moderate his language and filming continued. “He was rude towards staff and continued to talk in a derogatory manner, especially to women,” said a source close to the situation.

Staff are believed to have informed management that they would not be happy for the show to return while he worked on it. The production company again spoke to Wallace: “He was given a talking to and was appalled that he had caused such offence,” said a source.

While the BBC was made aware of the incident, his position on *MasterChef* is not in jeopardy, given the show’s more managed environment.

A Nestlé insider said Wallace had unintentionally upset staff. “He comes in



Gregg Wallace quit BBC2’s Inside the Factory this year

cracking jokes but is from a very different world to our workers.”

Nestlé said: “Nestlé UK has been proud to host *Inside the Factory* on five occasions since the series began.

“We have one more episode filmed … and would be open to participating in future episodes or similar projects.”

The BBC declined to comment. Wallace has been approached for comment.



News Politics

Johnson insists releasing diary

George Grylls Political Correspondent

Boris Johnson is resisting pressure from the government to publish his No 10 diaries after being referred to the police over gatherings at Downing Street and Chequers during the coronavirus pandemic.

Cabinet Office sources have demanded that the former prime minister release the diaries to back up his claims that about a dozen events he hosted during the pandemic were lawful.

But Johnson claims that publishing the diaries would breach government rules on disclosure and has refused to do so, citing national security grounds.

"We respect the rules on government information so we don't leak and brief things. We cannot release info for which we are not authorised," a source close to Johnson said. Instead, Johnson's legal team has sent letters accounting for each of the events to the police, the Cabinet Office and the committee of MPs investigating whether he lied to parliament. A spokesman said: "We have already written to them with the full information on the events and the reason they were fully lawful under the relevant legislation."

The former prime minister is fighting to save his political career after a dozen diary entries were referred to the police and the privileges committee for a potential breach of Covid regulations.

Among the events being looked at are meetings with Richard Sharp, the former BBC chairman, Lord Brownlow, a Conservative donor, and Sam Blyth, Johnson's cousin. Details of another visit to Chequers in May 2021 by two friends of Carrie Johnson have also been passed to the police.

The former prime minister insists all the gatherings were lawful and has accused officials of "cherry-picking".

Allies of Johnson have accused Oliver Dowden, the deputy prime minister, of sanctioning the release of the diaries to the privileges committee after it emerged that Jeremy Quin, a junior minister in the Cabinet Office, had allowed the evidence to be handed over to MPs investigating whether he lied to parliament. A friend of Johnson said: "We will publish these diaries when Oliver Dowden publishes a complete record of his movements and meetings in the same period."

The Cabinet Office insists that Quin had little choice but to hand over the diaries to MPs. "Of course the privileges committee was told about the referral to the police once ministers were aware," a Whitehall source said. "Imagine if the designated minister had refused to tell a parliamentary committee about events he knew the police were looking into and that would have come out in the public Covid inquiry anyway? Mr Johnson can clear this up by publishing the information he has."

Yesterday another ally of Johnson defended his conduct. Nadine Dorries, the MP for Mid Bedfordshire, said it was not a coincidence that the diaries had been discovered at a time when the MPs' inquiry into whether Johnson misled parliament was reaching its conclusion. "The only people acting inappropriately and making false claims are those who have sent these diaries off to the police and off to the privileges committee just a few weeks before the privileges committee was due to report on its findings," she told *Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg* on BBC One.

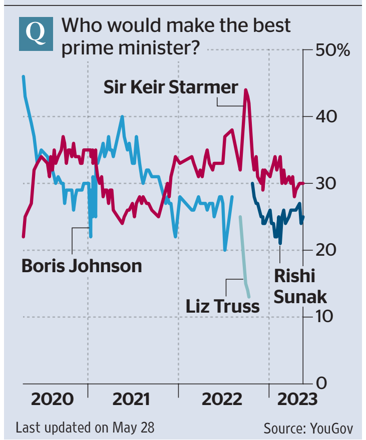
Steve Barclay, the health secretary, insisted that Johnson had a "huge role to play" in Conservative Party politics. He told Sky News that Johnson had "achieved many things" in No 10.

The Cabinet Office has until 4pm tomorrow to pass redacted WhatsApp messages to the Covid inquiry.

Baroness Hallett, the chairwoman of the inquiry, has set a deadline for the release of the messages, which she argues are crucial to understanding government decisions during the pandemic. Rishi Sunak and Johnson are among the figures whose messages could be disclosed.

Covid inquiry remit, letters, page 26

Who leads the polls?



Fit for office? Sunak admits his regime is slipping

As chancellor, Rishi Sunak rose early for a daily Peloton workout, often accompanied by a Britney Spears soundtrack (Kat Lay writes).

As prime minister, things have changed. Sunak took part in a 10km race in his constituency and told the crowd that he had not exercised for a long time. Sunak said he had "been a little bit busy" but hoped to get around in under an hour.

He made it in 47 minutes and 41 seconds, placing him 203rd out of 830. Speaking before the run in Northallerton, North Yorkshire, Sunak, 43, said: "I haven't done any exercise in a long time."

The prime minister was asked which of his predecessors in the role, or serving minister, he would most like to compete with in a race. He ignored a heckled cry of "Boris!", answering instead that he would "like to try and do it with Penny Mordaunt with her sword and see if we can get around with that".

Mordaunt, leader of the Commons, was praised for carrying the 8lb (3.6kg) sword of state for almost an hour at the King's coronation.

The race raised funds for the Pendragon Community Trust, a charity that runs a multisensory centre in Northallerton. It offers a safe space for adults, children and their families, particularly focused on people with physical, mental and emotional difficulties.

As chancellor, Sunak told a podcast in 2021 that he was a keen follower of Cody Rigsby, an American fitness instructor. He said: "He is definitely my long-time favourite, which means you have to listen to a lot of Britney. But you know, no bad thing in trying to get you motivated."



Rishi Sunak was one of more than 800 runners in a 10km charity fundraising race

40 new hospitals 'includes refurb plans'

Kat Lay Health Editor

A government commitment to provide 40 new hospitals by the end of the decade includes refurbishments or new wings on existing sites, the health secretary has admitted.

Steve Barclay said that the pledge involved "a range of things" in an interview on the BBC's *Sunday With Laura Kuenssberg*.

"Some of the schemes include, for example, a hospital being gutted and fully refurbished — if you look at Charing Cross for example, that's exactly what we'll be doing," he said. "And we'll be starting work to decant some of the facilities and then refurbish, so there's a range of things."

Barclay had been asked to clarify what the programme would involve after confusion last week. Ministers repeated the 2019 manifesto promise to build 40 new hospitals by 2030, but acknowledged that work might not be completed by the deadline on up to eight of the original sites. Instead, some hospitals at risk of collapse and in need of an upgrade would be added to the programme, Barclay said.

Hospitals that have been denied funding include St Mary's in London, which was due to be rebuilt and is in a "deteriorating" condition, with staff working in former stables built in 1878.

Opposition MPs criticised the changes, with Daisy Cooper, the Lib Dem deputy leader, saying: "Never has a health secretary been responsible for so many broken promises. From fixing crumbling hospitals to reforming social care, it is all delay, delay, delay."

Addressing the Commons last week, Barclay said: "Since 2020 we have committed to invest £3.7 billion by the financial year 24-25, and we expect the total investment to now be over £20 billion for the programme as a whole."

Nigel Edwards, chief executive of the Nuffield Trust, questioned the figure, saying: "It is unclear if the funding sums mentioned represent new money added to the NHS capital budget."

NHS leaders have also accused the government of failing in a commitment to protect patient care by not fully funding the pay award agreed this year with most health service unions.

Under the deal, staff on Agenda for Change contracts, which include most non-doctor health service staff, will receive pay rises of at least 5 per cent and a lump sum bonus. Hospitals will get funds to cover the costs but other organisations providing NHS care, such as charities, have staff eligible for the rise but have not been guaranteed the same help. In a letter to Barclay, health and care leaders set out fears that some would have to close .

On the same BBC show Barclay clashed with the junior doctors' union leader over pay. He said that junior doctors were being unreasonable by refusing to move on their 35 per cent pay rise demand.

Dr Vivek Trivedi, of the British Medical Association, said that doctors were being driven away by deals that amounted to a real-terms pay cut.

Ministers have offered 5 per cent.

PM's grandfather taught the Mau Mau how to fight

Dominic Kennedy

Rishi Sunak's grandfather taught Mau Mau rebels to fight the British in Kenya despite being on the colonial payroll himself, an author has discovered.

Ramdas Sunak was also a member of a right-wing Hindu nationalist paramilitary organisation that has been banned in India three times. In Britain, he helped to establish a temple where the future prime minister worshipped as a boy and still visits.

The prime minister's paternal grandfather was born in 1917 in Gujranwala in the Punjab. When he was two years old, British colonial forces massacred unarmed civilians there, leaving nine dead. As a young man he joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a paramilitary group close to the party of India's prime minister Narendra Modi.

Ramdas Sunak, an accountant, moved to Nairobi, where he worked for the British rulers as a clerk and then senior administrator in the finance and justice departments.

He taught guerrilla techniques to the Mau Mau who were fighting for Kenyan independence, according to The Mail on Sunday. Britain has paid £19 million for the mistreatment of Kenyans, including men who were castrated, during the uprising.

In 1971 he emigrated to Britain where two of his adult sons were studying at university. He made a home in Southampton and helped found its Vedic Society Hindu Temple but died aged 63 in 1980 before it opened. His grandson was born in the same year.

The discoveries were made by Shyam Bhatia, author of *Bullets and Bylines: From the Frontlines of Kabul, Delhi, Damascus and Beyond*, who is researching a book about colonial atrocities.

Downing Street declined to comment on personal matters.

‘would breach national security’

CARRIE HOWARTH



in Northallerton, North Yorkshire, near his Richmond constituency. He finished in under 48 minutes, in 203rd place

China trade war with US ‘serious threat to Britain’

George Grylls, Alex Ralph

An escalating subsidies war between the US and China is set to cause serious damage to the UK economy, according to leaked internal government analysis.

The high-level government document suggests that the UK would need to adopt a more interventionist approach to the economy after President Biden announced a $369 billion package of green subsidies last year.

Rishi Sunak has been warned he may have to spend billions of pounds supporting sectors key to national security, such as artificial intelligence and quantum computing.

The prime minister has so far resisted calls to follow the US with a more interventionist approach, although he will visit the White House next week to discuss with Biden the impact of American subsidies on British businesses.

Sunak has faced criticism at home over the government’s lack of industrial strategy and the boss of Barclays has added his voice to the calls for a new plan. Writing in today’s Times, Coimbatore Sundararajan Venkatakrishnan urges the government to develop a “robust, co-ordinated industrial policy” and says the UK must “re-embrace its business-friendly roots”. He adds: “Britain voted to leave the EU seven years ago, but has failed to define its new global trading relationships.”

British manufacturers have calculated that ministers would have to spend more than £100 billion to match US subsidies on items such as semiconductor chips. Recently the government’s position has softened, and the Treasury offered Jaguar Land Rover £500 million to locate an electric battery plant in Somerset.

The document, circulated among the prime minister, the chancellor and a small group of cabinet ministers, and seen by The Times, says the Inflation Reduction Act demonstrates the US’s determination to defend key industries against China, even if the protectionism comes “at the UK’s expense”. The analysis finds that the UK would suffer more than the US, EU and China in a full-blown subsidies war.

It says the UK cannot adopt “a wholesale activist industrial policy” like the US, EU or China because it is only “a mid-sized economy outside major trading blocs”. The UK does not have the same “fiscal capacity or economic strengths” as the world’s superpowers, the paper goes on to say.

The government should therefore build up a “comparative advantage” in some parts of the economy “that can subsequently be leveraged” in a trade war rather than taking a blanket approach to subsidies, the paper argues, giving the example of artificial intelligence and quantum computing.

The analysis cites the example of the UK semiconductor industry and finds that British businesses rely on China for 40 per cent of their silicon chips, which are used in almost all modern goods.

It warns that British businesses will have to move away from Chinese supply chains because of US export controls — but creating a semiconductor industry in the UK would require tens of billions of pounds of government support.

A Treasury spokeswoman said: “We’re making the UK the best place in the world to do business by offering the lowest corporation tax in the G7 and a smart regulatory system … Our £650 million package to boost life sciences, announced last week, is another example of how we are helping drive our core sectors through a combination of investment and regulatory reform.”

Economic rivalry risks squeezing British business, leading article, page 27
Britain needs a bold strategy for growth, CS Venkatakrishnan, page 34

Reporters to pay fee for Tory conference

Shayma Bakht

The Conservative Party has told reporters they must pay £137 each to attend its annual conference, causing a row with the media.

News groups across the political spectrum have refused to pay, calling the move “draconian” and a “charging barrier for journalists to be able to act as the eyes and ears of the public”.

Industry bodies raised concerns last year when the fee was introduced. No other British political party charges for press accreditation.

The conference, which will take place in Manchester in October, would typically be attended by hundreds of columnists, editors and reporters. But calls for a boycott have been widely supported across newsrooms and the press gallery of Westminster political correspondents.

In a joint statement a coalition of media industry bodies said: “For more than a year we have been seeking discussion with the Conservative Party to review these charges, as promised. This was to find an alternative solution to supposed concerns which the party seeks to address by charging the media for attendance — a decision which we are united in viewing as undemocratic and detrimental to the interests of society and the party itself.”

The coalition — including the News Media Association, Society of Editors, News Media Coalition and Foreign Press Association — added: “In a democratic society, all party conferences are of considerable political and public importance and, as such, there should be no charging barrier for journalists to be able to act as the eyes and ears of the public by freely reporting at such events. Through objective journalism, the conference also provides a window for the global community to see UK democracy in action.”

Lucy Frazer, the digital, culture, media and sport secretary, said this month that the government had made press freedom a priority.

“If we want a thriving media sector in the future our focus has to be on a free press and a press that is free to grow,” she said. “As a government we are taking steps to increase press freedoms and make sure journalists can do their jobs effectively.”

Conservative Campaign Headquarters has defended the introduction of the fee as necessary to cover administration costs, which it said had risen because the party received numerous press pass applications from journalists who did not then attend the event.

The coalition of media organisation’s statement said in response that “the issue of so-called no-shows is a factor experienced by all popular events of press interest, often due to changing daily news agendas.

“We have offered alternative ways to reduce the impact and cost of speculative applications, which have fallen on deaf ears.

“To live up to the Conservative government’s mantra on press freedom, the accreditation fee for attending the conference must be scrapped.”

MPs claimed expenses to cover their driving fines

George Grylls

Four MPs wrongly claimed hundreds of pounds in expenses to pay off driving fines, an investigation has found.

Amanda Solloway, an energy minister, was among those who charged the taxpayer for an £80 fixed penalty notice after she committed a driving offence in London. She has since repaid the money, saying she claimed it in error.

Three Conservatives and one SNP MP claimed expenses for driving offences between 2019 and 2022, the investigation by The Independent found. The two other Conservative MPs were Simon Hoare, chairman of the Northern Ireland affairs select committee, and Bim Afolami, the former party vice-chairman. Dave Doogan, the SNP MP for Angus, also claimed for a driving fine.

The fines were issued by Transport for London, which gives penalties for offences such as parking on double red lines and driving in bus lanes.

Afolami claimed for two £80 fines in December 2021 but has repaid the money. Hoare claimed for four £80 fines in November 2019. Doogan claimed for a £160 fine in January 2022.

Sir Alastair Graham, the former chairman of the committee on standards in public life, told the newspaper: “MPs are ordinary citizens like the rest of us, and if they’ve breached the regulations for driving then they have to pay the fixed penalty notice like the rest of us. It gives a very bad impression if they’re paid out of public funds, because it looks like they’re getting special privileges.”

A spokesman for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, said: “We have changed our process to ensure any future such claims are not paid, and will reiterate the scheme rules to MPs.”

Stock urges Oxford to value free debate

James Beal Social Affairs Editor

Kathleen Stock has issued a rallying cry for free speech on the eve of her contested appearance at the University of Oxford.

The philosopher told The Times that the freedom to discuss controversial topics was "indispensable" in a progressive society and urged students to understand the value of "free debate".

Oxford is braced for up to 1,000 protesters and counter-protesters when the former University of Sussex lecturer speaks to the Oxford Union tomorrow evening.



Kathleen Stock said discussion is how society learns

A group of students has called Stock, 51, transphobic for her view that people cannot change sex and said they were "dismayed" she was to get a platform.

In turn, 44 Oxford dons criticised the students and said universities "must remain places where contentious views can be openly discussed".

Stock told The Times last night: "No one pressure group should have the last word on policies or laws that affect everybody.

"Discussion is how society learns to distinguish the wrongheaded ideas from the true and the useful ones."

The gulf between a section of progressive Oxford students and academics over her invitation to speak has widened, however. More than half of Oxford colleges have passed motions condemning Stock for her views.

When the Oxford Union, the university's 200-year-old debating society, last month invited the feminist professor to speak about gender identity theory, the university's LGBTQ+ society said it was "appalled".

Following the outcry, Oxford's Student Union voted to sever ties with the 200-year-old debating society. The move would have prevented the Union from having a stall at the freshers' fair – a key source of membership sign-ups.

The Student Union insisted it was nothing to do with Stock's planned appearance, but 44 dons at Oxford wrote an open letter criticising the decision.

Following the academics' letter, the Student Union reversed its decision.

Prof Martin Williams, one of the university's pro-vice-chancellors, told students that they must be prepared to "encounter and confront difficult views".

Meanwhile more than 100 Oxford-based academic members have signed a counter petition in support of the campaign against Stock. The letter to Williams , organised by the Oxford University LGBTQ+ Society, said no-platforming Stock was "not a free speech issue".

SHIRLAINE FORREST/GETTY IMAGES



Fancy that Bella, a seal-point ragdoll, sits for a portrait at the Durham County Cat Fancy Championship show, held on Saturday at Temple Park, South Shields

Philosopher in line to be 'war on woke' tsar

Shayma Bakht

The first free-speech tsar is expected to be named by Rishi Sunak this week in an attempt to wage a "war on woke".

Arif Ahmed, a Cambridge professor of philosophy who has spoken out against "cancel culture" on campuses, is understood to have accepted the role of director for freedom of speech and academic freedom, which will allow him to investigate the "censorship" of staff and students.

The role has been established under the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill, which received royal assent this month. It creates a duty for universities and colleges to "actively promote" freedom of speech.

Ahmed will be appointed to the board of the Office for Students, which is set to operate a complaints scheme to investigate possible breaches of free speech by universities, colleges and students' unions, and can levy fines.

A government source told The Mail on Sunday that Ahmed would "bring critical external experience from the higher education sector [to] promote freedom of speech and academic freedom in a practical way".

Ahmed, a lecturer at Gonville & Caius College, led the Campaign for Cambridge Freedoms in 2020, which was created to counteract the "witch-hunts" of academics and students saying "what they think about the Empire, trans issues, Israel and Palestine".



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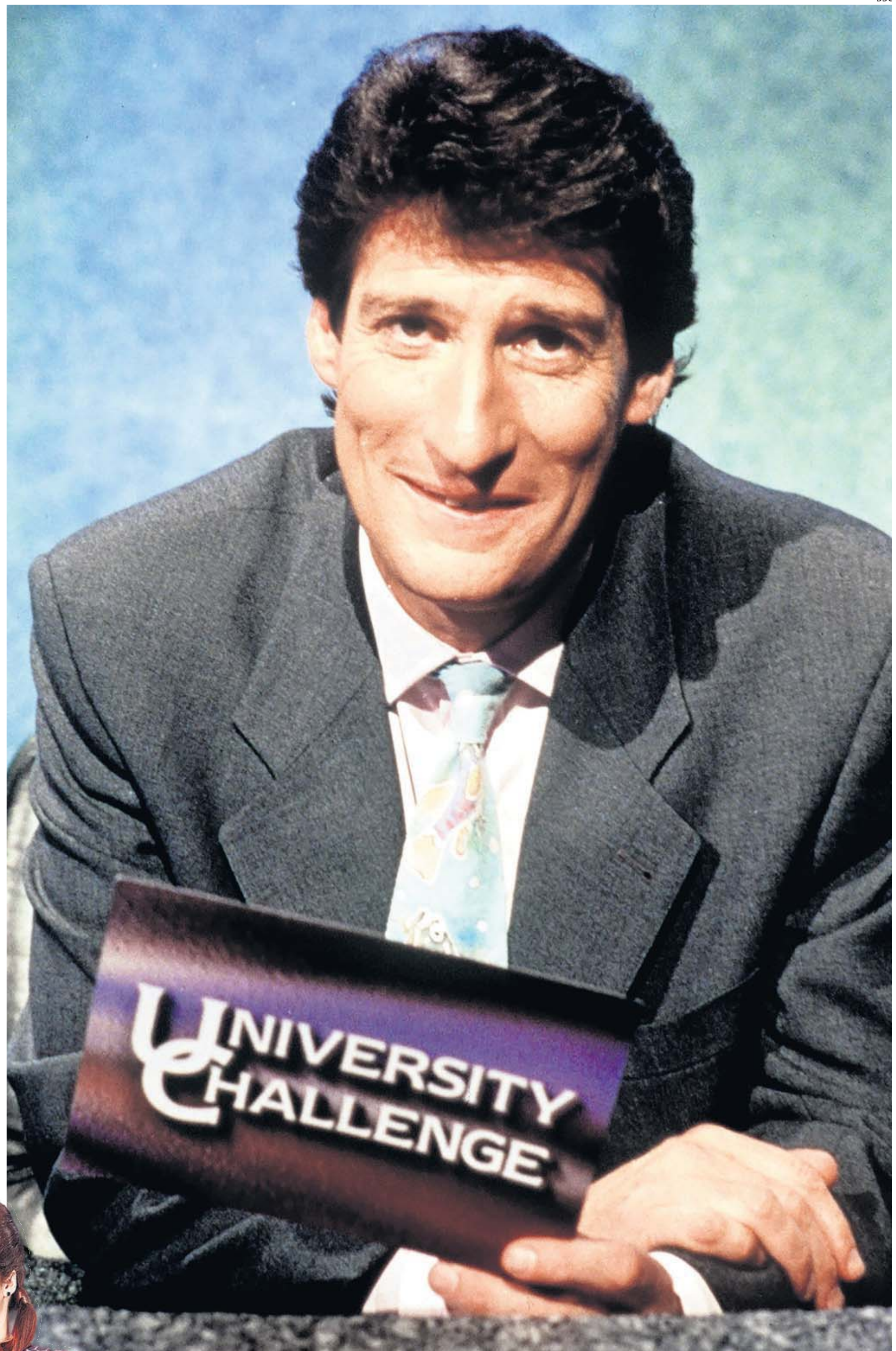
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Paxman not such a challenge after all

Contestants remember the kindness of the retiring university quiz host, write **Alex Farber** and **Mario Ledwith**

BBC





Jeremy Paxman has presented University Challenge for nearly three decades. Jenny Ryan, left, was among contestants who later found fame on TV shows such as The Chase

For almost three decades, Jeremy Paxman has subjected Britain's brightest to a glare that may have left them doubting their intellect. But tonight's *University Challenge* contest between Durham and Bristol marks the end of his reign as the quiz show tough guy.

Paxman, 73, announced his retirement last year while coming to terms with a Parkinson's diagnosis he said had made living "a bit of a bugger". The former *Newsnight* presenter, who succeeded the avuncular Bamber Gascoigne, said he had "had a blast" on the programme.

So did many of the undergraduates who faced him. *The Times* has spoken to four who locked horns with him. All said he was much more supportive than his on-screen persona suggested.

Jenny Ryan, a 20-year-old Leeds University semi-finalist in 2002, applied to go on the show even after seeing Paxman mocked up as the "Here's Johnny" character from *The Shining* on a recruitment poster.

"Every fibre of my rational being screamed 'That's terrifying!'," she said. "And when we got to the studio I could see that a lot of my team-mates and the other contestants were intimidated — but as soon as the cameras rolled we started to relax and enjoy ourselves."

For all the "intellectual fierceness" manifest during decades of political interviews, Paxman did his best to support contestants, she said. "He is clear, concise and a stickler. And because he is so knowledgeable, he has great authority. We were in awe of his skill in being able to fluidly read very wordy questions about physics, literature and art."

Bobby Seagull, a 2017 semi-finalist from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, also approached the show with trepidation, in part due to Paxman's "fearsome" reputation. "Anyone that remembers his *Newsnight* interviews knows he is formidable and if you make a mistake it is going to haunt you."

Ranking him above *Mastermind*'s Magnus Magnusson, and *The Weakest Link*'s Anne Robinson in the pantheon of quiz greats, Seagull said Paxman's longevity positioned him as "the Sir Alex Ferguson of quiz hosts".

But, he said, the snarling, disdainful responses with which Paxman could greet wrong answers was mostly a front.

"He respects that young people still value the accumulation of knowledge. And in this era of ChatGPT there is something to be said for people priding themselves on knowledge," Seagull said.

Mark Labbett, a 1997 finalist from Glamorgan University, said that while Paxman seemed happiest taking points away from teams for wrong answers, his true nature was revealed when he gave something back to a contestant. Before his first-round match, Paxman learnt that the opposing captain had been mugged at Brighton station on the way to the recording reimbursed him out of his own pocket. "He didn't do it to make people think what a great guy he was," Labbett said . "He did it because it he felt it was the right thing to do."

Eric Monkman, a 2017 finalist from Wolfson College, Cambridge, whose demeanour resulted in #Monkmania trending on Twitter, recalled Paxman's playful humour after identifying him as a character. "He realised that he could have some fun with me and I caught on to what he was doing and was happy to play along." The high point was Paxman suggesting he would make an "excellent revivalist preacher" after his dramatic rendering of Latin Bible quotes.

As a Canadian he had no preconceptions about Paxman's reputation. "I wasn't intimidated because I wasn't familiar with his persona of giving the third degree to some hapless students," he said. "But I only knew him as a kind, encouraging host, particularly when the cameras aren't rolling."

Grand inquisitor brought entertainment and wisdom, leading article, page 27

Don't count on Oxbridge

They say Oxbridge provides a world-class education but standards seem to be slipping when it comes to competitive quizzing. Usually a dominant force in *University Challenge*, teams from the prestigious institutions are scoring fewer points, declining steadily since 2016 (George Willoughby writes).

In the latest instalment of the show, teams scored on average 135 points, a 33 per cent drop on Jeremy Paxman's first year as host in 1994. This contrasts with the late 1990s, when Magdalen College, Oxford, claimed back-to-back titles in 1997 and 1998 exerting the Oxbridge supremacy.

Now, teams such as Imperial College London, the defending champions, and Warwick University are more than a match for anyone. As for the history of the show, Durham University has the most appearances (22), closely followed by Edinburgh (21) and Manchester (20).

The largest winning victory in a single match was in 1997 when Charing Cross Hospital defeated The Open University by 350 points. Not only was this the biggest difference between scores, it is also the only time a team has topped 400 points in one game in the Paxman era.

Sussex University has the unwanted record of the lowest points scored in a match, reaching ten against Birmingham in the 2021-22 series.

Emmanuel, Cambridge, holds the record for the most points scored in a series with a total of 1,890 in seven matches.

Too clever by half, or not

Paxman was left head in hands by an Imperial College contestant who, when asked which romantic figure, created by Charlotte Bronte, had been played by Timothy Dalton and Michael Fassbender, guessed that it was Inspector Clouseau.

A student from Wolfson College, Oxford, drew attention for his novel way of giving answers, leaving Paxman bemused when he cried "Uzbekistan, baby!"

"During the 20th century, who held the position of prime minister of the United Kingdom..." a student from Trinity College, Cambridge, raised eyebrows when he buzzed in with "Margaret Thatcher", before Paxman had asked the question.

"How did you know I was going to ask for the longest period of time?" Paxman asked. "What else was it going to be?," came the response. Paxman then added "Let's see if you get these bonuses right. They are on French land borders, you smartarses."

"What?! No", was Paxman's response when told that Benjamin Franklin, rather than Edmund Burke, had delivered a speech to MPs. Eric Monkman also got short shrift when he buzzed to say a certain historical artefact was "somewhere" in Italy. "That is a completely useless answer, Paxman snipped.

The host was, though, sincere when a struggling team managed to lift their score from minus 5, saying "that brings you to a majestic zero".

Churchwardens step down amid uproar over bid for male vicar

Debbie White

The chairman of a Cornish church council that advertised a post for a "male" vicar is stepping down.

There was uproar after the parochial church council of 800-year-old St Fimbarrus church in Fowey passed a resolution in January last year to be led only by a male vicar. Andy Virr, a Conservative councillor, has now resigned as chairman. His fellow churchwarden Carol Carruthers and her husband, Graham, have also left.

They stepped down ahead of the annual PCC meeting on Sunday, where one resident described the ban on female priests as "totally sexist".

The parishioner said that she was "offended on behalf of Fowey".

The heated meeting was chaired by the St Austell vicar Rev Howard Flint, who admitted that "Fowey is in a difficult place". After initial discussion about the sale of the town's vicarage, a woman at the meeting suggested: "It's time to talk about the elephant in the room." To applause she added: "When are we going to get a vicar — male, female, homosexual, lesbian or Green?"

Another parishioner said: "We strongly believe this was wrong and unrepresentative of the parish and the town. We recommend that the PCC urgently revisit the resolution. We would wish Fowey church to become mainstream rather than, in our words, extreme evangelical."

The church has been without a vicar since the previous incumbent left four years ago to start an evangelical church in the sailing club. A minority of the congregation said they could not stay in the church on theological grounds unless the new priest was a man.

The Diocese of Truro said it could not comment on the PCC meeting as it was "an internal parish meeting" and representatives from the diocese were not present. A spokesman said: "In terms of the recruitment for a new vicar in Fowey, the role will be going out to advertisement in the next couple of weeks.

"Fowey PCC passed a resolution under the House of Bishops' Declaration. Nothing has changed in relation to this. Any change would require the PCC to revoke it and that is a decision for them. The diocese has no authority in that regard."

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JORDAN PETTIT/PA; ALAMY



Deep-sea voyage 'finds new species'

A scientific expedition to study a remote part of the south Atlantic may have uncovered two previously unknown species living in the ocean, experts from the Natural History Museum have said (Kaya Burgess writes).

Museum scientists joined a six-week voyage to the waters around St Helena and Ascension, both more than 1,000 miles off west Africa, to map the sea floor, test water quality, measure temperature and plastic pollution, and document the species living there.

Two of the samples may be previously unknown to science, experts believe.

James Maclaine, senior curator of the fish section at the museum, said: "There is a particularly unusual anglerfish, also called a football fish, which is either a new species or a juvenile of a very rare species only known from six individuals, so either way it's quite exciting. There are also some interesting amphipod shrimps that are being checked."

He said further analysis was needed: "We have to be very thorough before definitively saying anything is a new species and need to do a lot of reading and comparison with other similar animals."

The RRS Discovery left Southampton in October on a 9,000-mile expedition. Researchers used nets at night to trawl for and collect creatures including cephalopods, flying fish and shrimp from depths of between 400m and 1,000m. The expedition formed part of the Blue Belt programme, working with British overseas territories to help protect marine environments, and was organised with the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science.

Chris Fletcher, a research assistant for marine invertebrates at the museum, was on board to take tissue samples from the creatures for genome squencing. "This is really important so we can find out how these genes relate to biological functions and physical structures," he said. "We can also do big evolutionary studies and population studies, which are very important."



Chris Fletcher and Jon Ablett of the Natural History Museum with speciemens collected on the voyage into the South Atlantic, some at 1,000m deep

Princess of Wales's parents leave taxpayer in red as business fails

Helen Cahill
Restructuring Correspondent

The Princess of Wales's parents took out a coronavirus loan for a children's party business that will leave the taxpayer facing a loss after it collapsed.

Carole and Michael Middleton received a taxpayer-backed loan from NatWest to support the company when lockdowns prevented family gatherings. Party Pieces, which they established in 1987, has entered insolvency. The bank is owed £220,000, according to documents seen by The Times.

The taxpayer is liable to pay 80 per cent of any amount owed to NatWest under the terms of the government's coronavirus business interruption loan scheme.

Party Pieces has been sold through a so-called pre-pack administration deal to the entrepreneur James Sinclair for £180,000. The sale proceeds will be insufficient to pay off the loan, which is unsecured and will not be given priority over other unsecured creditors, such as trade suppliers.

It is understood that Carole Middleton stepped back from the running of Party Pieces in 2019. She became a brand ambassador and a new management team was put in place. She remained a director and returned to help to run the company's operations this year to help to secure its future.

The pandemic led to a fall in sales that ultimately prompted the owners to call in advisers from the restructuring firm Interpath. Revenues fell from £4.5 million to £3.2 million last year, and the company made a net loss before tax of £900,000.

The administrators said: "Management attributed this to the Covid-19 pandemic resulting in reduced social gatherings and a reduction in discretionary spend due to the cost of living crisis."

Sinclair's company Teddy Tastic Bear bought Party Pieces after Interpath approached 175 possible buyers.



The Middletons attending Royal Ascot last year

Rishi Sunak launched the coronavirus business interruption loan scheme to support businesses in March 2020, when he was chancellor. The scheme did not require a personal guarantee for lending below £250,000.

The government backed 109,877 loans worth a total £26.4 billion. Taxpayers have paid out more than £4 billion to banks to cover losses due to default and fraud.

Campaigners have complained that the government has not been fully transparent about who has benefited from taxpayer-backed loan schemes. A judge has ruled that the government will not have to disclose who received a loan under the bounceback scheme.

The Middletons declined to comment.

Boss of child charity backed by royals is murderer

Debbie White

The chief executive of a children's charity supported by the Princess of Wales is a convicted murderer who stabbed a man on a train when he was aged 16, it emerged last night.

Paul Carberry, of Action for Children, met the princess, the charity's patron, in May last year at an event. Colleagues of Carberry, 60, knew of his crime when he became the charity's boss in March but the Prince and Princess of Wales were unaware of his past when they met him, the Daily Mail reported. The Princess, then Duchess of Cambridge, was pictured laughing alongside Carberry at St John's primary school in Inverclyde, Scotland.

In 1979 Carberry stabbed John Murray, 21, five times and wounded another passenger while on a train carrying Scottish football fans to London. He told the paper: "That's something I've regretted every day. A family did not have their loved one because of me."

According to court reports, Carberry, who had been drinking, was a member of the Govan Team gang, named after a "tough district of his native Glasgow", the newspaper said.

A court was told that violence broke out after a gang member allegedly molested a woman. Carberry stabbed Michael McBain, 22, who was asleep, then knifed Murray. He was found guilty of murder by Chester crown court. In his defence Carberry told the court he had confiscated another man's knife and had no memory of the attack. He was freed from prison in 1985.

He said the stabbing still haunted him: "That's absolutely been a factor in my life. And, actually, it's been a factor in what I've then done as a result."

Carberry said he had not spoken about his past out of respect for the victim and his family.

Rare beetle spotted in holiday snap

Will Humphries
Countryside Correspondent

When a pair of holidaymakers in the Lake District stumbled upon a stag beetle scurrying across a pile of dead wood, they took a photograph of the insect and went on with their day.

That sighting last summer turned out to be the first record of the species in northwest England and could unlock the location of a secret population.

The People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) is now calling on all of those living in and visiting the Keswick area of the national park to look out for the insect and report any sightings.

The males are instantly recognisable with their antler-like jaws.

Once widespread, the UK's largest land beetle is in decline as its key habitat, dead wood, is destroyed through the tidying of woodland, parks and gardens.

The couple's sighting occurred at Castlerigg Hall campsite, close to the shores of Derwentwater.

Laura Bower, the conservation officer at PTES, said: "This record from a woodland in Cumbria was really surprising, as we weren't previously aware that stag beetles were in this part of the country. They are mostly found in southern England and are not usually seen north of the Midlands.

"It's really important we find out if this beetle is part of a wider population or whether it might have somehow been transported there by accident."

Those wishing to join the Great Stag Hunt can visit stagbeetles.ptes.org

Diversity vital to keep West safe, says spy who aided UK

Huda Mukbil was key to tracing terrorists after the 7/7 attacks on London commuters, writes **Fiona Hamilton**

After the July 7 bombings in 2005, detectives and MI5 scrambled to trace extremist networks linked to the devastating terrorist attack.

They had to go 3,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean to find the woman who could help them do it.

Huda Mukbil was a Canadian spy whose expertise in several Arabic dialects was crucial in helping to unpick the terrorist network. She has spoken for the first time about how she was posted to the security service to help secure convictions and track down extremists linked to Britain's worst mainland terrorism atrocity.

"MI5 had the evidence," she recalled, "but they just couldn't interpret all of it. The alert came out — is there anyone who can? Is there anyone with knowledge of anything to do with east Africa, the languages that are spoken there? I was the only one identified. Not in the US, not in Canada. The only one in the whole Five Eyes."

Mukbil was referring to the intelligence partnership between the UK and its four western allies — the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. When Muhammad Siddique Khan and three fellow Islamists blew themselves up on London's transport network, killing 52 people, expertise was offered from across the system.

London was still reeling when two weeks later copycat terrorists tried and failed to carry out similar attacks. One of them, Hussain Osman, had fled to Italy. MI5 needed help to translate eavesdrop evidence on the July 21 network and to look for clues about his whereabouts and culpability.

It revealed a gap in the agency's knowledge. Since the September 11 attacks on the US in 2001 the focus had been on Islamist extremism spawned from south Asia but the July 21 attacks involved Muslims of African origin.

Mukbil was a unique spy who could help them to crack the case. The first black Muslim woman to be hired by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), she was of Arab and Ethiopian origin and could speak English, French, Harari and Arabic, including east African dialects. Within hours of CSIS answering MI5's call for help, she was posted to London. Mukbil describes the experience in her recent book, *Agent of Change — My Life Fighting Terrorists, Spies, and Institutional Racism.*

"This was the biggest challenge for the Met police and MI5, the biggest manhunt," she said. "They just said: 'We need you here'. They were thrilled that I spoke Arabic."

She had been nervous because she felt ostracised at CSIS. She joined after 9/11 to help fight the terrorist threat but says she experienced racism, misogyny and Islamophobia. Her book reveals how she became conflicted by the surveillance and profiling of Muslims, and was considered an "insider threat" when her religious observance increased. She was even asked to take a polygraph test to prove her allegiance. Ultimately she left the agency and won a discrimination settlement.

PATRICK DOYLE



Huda Mukbil flew from Canada hours after MI5 put out a plea for an expert in African and Arabic dialects. Several victims of the 7/7 attacks were on a bus, right

Mukbil contrasts her treatment at CSIS with the warm reception at MI5 — apart from her first impression. It was days after 21/7 and London's security teams were jittery. Wearing a blue hijab, she walked up to Thames House in Millbank with her station chief and was surrounded by armed officers who yelled "freeze!". She had been profiled but it was the only negative experience and she said she was otherwise welcomed with open arms.

"My experience was really positive because there was a real realisation that I had skills no one else had," she said.

She translated, transcribed and interpreted intelligence on the 21/7 network to be used during the questioning of Osman, originally from Ethiopia, and other suspects. She helped provide evidence for his extradition from Italy. Her reports gave insight on his radicalisation and the planning of the attack.

Her work became well known in the UK intelligence community. She was handed MI5 merit awards, invited to a reception with Baroness Manningham-Buller, then director-general, and personally thanked by John Prescott, then deputy prime minister.

It was, she said, an "exhilarating experience" but also one that underlined the importance of diversity and inclusion at the intelligence agencies. MI5 was predominantly white and, back then, she said Muslim colleagues confided they were not necessarily trusted. The agency now prides itself on its diversity and says it is central to its growth and future.

Mukbil underlined the importance of employing agents who come from all the communities being protected. "You need people that know the region to be able to recruit sources or speak to people in those communities. You can't have a surveillance team. You need interpreters. You need case officers that are able to go out and recruit sources and speak to people. You can't do security and intelligence work if you don't have diversity at all levels."

Mukbil was asked to brief the Metropolitan Police on Muslim and Middle Eastern culture and questioned why they had no staff of their own to do it.

She was posted back to Canada after several months but became increasingly disillusioned about the prejudice and the misogynistic culture she said she encountered there. She joined a group of five people from CSIS who represented women, the LGBT community, Muslims and minorities, who announced a C$35 million lawsuit before the agency settled in 2017. She resigned after a "groundbreaking" commitment from the service that it would address systemic racism and she now teaches national security and diversity at the University of Ottawa.



"I don't give up. My experience running counterterrorism operations really helped. I made sure that we had the right legal representation but we also went and spoke with politicians. It created pressure because this was very serious, the lack of diversity. The Americans call it mission critical. It really is."



Plumber's £12,000 donation nets robotic arm for young football fan

Debbie White

A football-mad boy born with one arm is "shocked" that he can now throw a ball to team-mates after a plumber donated £12,600 for a bionic limb.

Alex Sparkes, seven, a Blackburn Rovers season ticket holder, had long dreamt of being fitted with a blue and white robotic arm bearing his team's rose emblem.

Thanks to the generosity of James Anderson, 55, the young football fan's wish will come true. Anderson, who founded the social enterprise Disability and Elderly Plumbing and Heating Emergency Repair in Burnley, said Alex's "story drew me in. The arm will give a little boy his life back."

The boy's mother, Dionne Sparkes, 33, of Oswaldtwistle in Lancashire, told Lancs Live: "Alex just wants to be normal. On his fifth birthday, he wished for his arm to grow back. I had to tell him he couldn't make a wish like that."

Alex has been on a waiting list for an NHS prosthetic arm for several years. During a recent family visit to an Open Bionics fair Alex tried the company's robotic limb, which is so advanced it allows wearers to pick up a pin with its fingers using their remaining muscles.

Special sensors in the Bristol company's lightweight, 3D-printed "hero arm" detect tiny naturally generated electric signals and convert them into bionic hand movement.

Sparkes said her son was thrilled at being able to move the arm, particularly as he had never enjoyed wearing other prosthetics.



Alex Sparkes tries on the limb. His new arm will be in the blue and white of his favourite team, Blackburn Rovers

Anderson's immediate donation will enable Alex to have a fitting for his new arm at a specialist centre in Bristol next week. The plumber said: "It was humbling to meet him and it was wonderful to see his smile when I told him. It was an easy decision.

"He is smiling and happy and getting on with his life. It's just wonderful to see a young boy go through so much and just want to be as normal as possible."

Bionic suits make lifting light work

Elisabeth Perlman

For those who work 11-hour shifts lifting heavy boxes, the hope of acquiring super strength has long been confined to the Marvel universe.

But a European robotics ompany has made it a reality. German Bionic has developed the Cray X, the first connected power suit for use in industry.

German Bionic says the "exoskeletons" can increase productivity by 20-25 per cent per warehouse. "Interest is growing rapidly," Thomas Leliveld, head of sales, said. The tech retailer Currys has invested £250,000 in the technology. DPD, the delivery group, has trialled the suits on employees.

The wearable, waterproof device fits on like a backpack and is powered by a 40-volt battery. It offsets about 30kg of weight per lifting movement, while supporting the lower back. Physiotherapists, biomechanists and ergonomists were involved in the design. The frame is made of carbon fibre, which is stronger than steel but lighter.

German Bionic used EMG (electromyography), a diagnostic procedure to assess the health of muscles and the nerve cells that control them, to measure the efficacy of its exoskeleton. The results showed a reduction in muscle activity in the lower back of up to 64 per cent and in the upper back of up to 22 per cent when lifting heavier loads.

Using artificial intelligence, the suit adapts to a worker's movements, alerting them to poor posture and fatigue.

Less tiredness led to fewer injuries, said Leliveld, meaning employees were less likely to take time off.

The suit costs just under £28,000. The latest version, the Apogee, starts at £10,000 "for three-digit volumes."

German Bionic believes the suits will soon be mainstream. "In three years we believe that this product will be worn by the person filling the shelves at your local Tesco," it said.

PAUL NICHOLLS



Performers from the Past-Times Living History group cooling down during Tudor Day, an event held at Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire

Bank holiday heats up as passengers face chaos

Yesterday snatched the record as the UK's hottest day of the year so far, the Met Office confirmed, beating Saturday's high by a tenth of a degree (George Greenwood writes).

Temperatures reached 24.4C in Plymouth, narrowly topping the 24.3C recorded in Bramham, West Yorkshire, a day earlier.

However, travellers faced bank holiday chaos as airport e-gates across the country failed, causing four-hour queues despite the Home Office having reassured inspectors less than two years ago that such a "catastrophic failure" was highly unlikely.

The department said the problem was a one-off glitch that had since been fixed but declined to comment on what had caused the outage.

It has emerged that in a report by the chief inspector of borders and immigration, published in January last year, officials asked the Home Office for copies of contingency plans for a catastrophic failure of the gates.

"The Home Office told inspectors that because of the set-up of the gates it believed it was highly unlikely that the whole gates estate would suffer an outage," the document, first reported by ITV news, said.

For those who opted to stay in the UK, the weather led people to flock to the seaside and rivers to cool off. Brighton and Hove beach was packed, with some taking to the sea on jet skis. Others took to the water on slower-moving vessels, with paddle boards and pedalos seen on the River Avon in Warwick.

However, a spate of drownings prompted calls from the emergency services for people to be vigilant around open water. Two men in their twenties died near Oddicombe beach, Torbay, on Saturday, Devon & Cornwall police said. A teenager died after getting into trouble in a river in Carlisle on Friday. Cumbria police named him as Lewis Kirkpatrick, 15. He was found shortly after 1.30pm on Saturday.

Five-day forecast, page 49

Racism checks 'cover for lazy writers'

Jack Malvern

Publishers and writers are using sensitivity readers to "cover" themselves against racism claims on social media rather than try to understand the problems, a leading author has said.

Rebecca Kuang, whose novel *Babel* was a Sunday Times bestseller and was No 1 in the New York Times chart, said such readers had a role but were often used "in a very disingenuous and ill-informed way".

She told the Hay literary festival: "I always find it really weird to pay someone to tell you if you've accidentally been racist. I think you should be able to do the research to know yourself. They're using it to cover their asses, so they don't get into trouble on Twitter. Everybody wants to avoid a reader saying, 'This page in this book is racist.'"

Kuang, 26, whose latest novel *Yellowface* addresses racism in publishing, said she had used sensitivity readers for *Babel* but not because she wanted to detect inadvertent prejudice.

"We brought on four sensitivity readers for *Babel*, which has a very large and international cast. I wasn't asking them, 'Tell me all the problematic parts.' Rather, we were treating them as collaborators, people who could bring in extra detail and depth and complexity to these characters."

The Chinese-born writer, who moved to America aged five, said a reader gave her a list of things a Muslim character might have been thinking.

"There was never a moment where we were like, 'Oh no, the book's really problematic and thank God we had this read so we don't get in trouble.' It's more about seeking to enrich the character."

Hanif Kureishi, whose novels include *The Buddha of Suburbia*, spoke out about sensitivity readers last week. He said that a student of his had got himself into "a terrible tangle" after a tutor told him he should not have written a thriller with an American lesbian protagonist. "He re-wrote the book and made it much worse, having been made to believe he was committing a literary crime by entering the mind of someone other than himself."

Kureishi said such pressure would have ruined his own work. "I'm relieved not to be a young writer in this atmosphere of self-consciousness and trepidation, this North Korea of the mind."

Kuang also attacked the idea, promoted by writers including Joyce Carol Oates, that publishers were so obsessed by diversity that young white male authors were struggling to get work published.

Oates wrote on Twitter last July that a literary agent friend had told her "he cannot even get editors to read first novels by young white male writers, no matter how good".

Kuang, whose protagonist in *Yellowface* believes that publishers overlook her because she is white, said: "There are lots of white writers who believe that the only people getting book deals now are bipoc [black, indigenous and people of colour].If you just walk into a bookstore you know that's not true."


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2.27l
ALDI
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MATCH
Fairly
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milk.
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ANDREW MATTHEWS/PA



Reflected glory Hot air balloons tethered for the Night Glow finale, with music and fireworks, a feature of the three-day Isle of Wight Balloon Festival, which ends today at Robin Hill Country Park, Newport

£10m eco service station will let e-vehicles (and drivers) recharge

Elisabeth Perlman

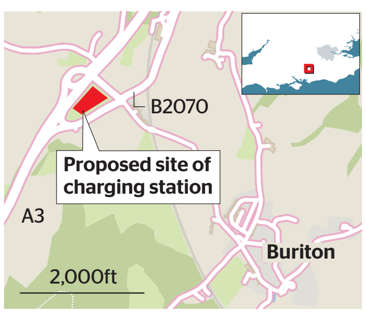
Forget cold sausage rolls, overpriced junk food and dull decor — the motorway service station is to get an upgrade.

Planning permission has been granted for one of Britain's largest electric charging service stations and it will open late next year. The six-acre site on the A3 near Buriton, Hampshire, will boast 120 electric vehicle (EV) chargers.

A property and investment company based in London is behind the development, which will cost an estimated £10 million to £12 million. It will include a cycling track, sustainable accommodation and a farm shop selling local wines and fresh produce. There will also be a showroom for visitors to view the latest electric cars.

The development, in the South Downs National Park, received consent through an appeal in March.

It can be difficult to get planning permission on or near national parks because they are areas set aside by the government for the preservation of the natural environment.



The scheme was rejected by the South Downs National Park Authority last year, amid fears of "overdevelopment" and the impact it would have on the landscape. But Michael Boniface, the inspector overseeing the appeal, overruled the authority.

"The development has been designed to work with the site characteristics, maintaining and enhancing positive features such as the stream and boundary planting," he wrote. He also noted that there were "clear and obvious advantages arising from the scheme in combating climate change".



The development in the South Downs National Park should open next year

Barry Angel, a developer leading the project, said: "Everything is completely green and organic. We're going to have 60 eco-lodges, which are all off-grid. There will even be somewhere to rent e-bikes from."

Staying in a carbon-neutral lodge will cost £100 to £200 a night. The lodges will rely on solar power and green fuel supplied by nearby farms, where anaerobic digesters ferment animal manure, food waste and crops to create biogas, a renewable energy source. One tonne of food waste can produce about 300 kilowatt hours of energy. Although there will be no biogas plants on the site, some have deemed the structures controversial, primarily because they take farmland out of food production.

Angel said the development would be welcomed by drivers of electric cars with "range anxiety". The lack of chargers means many people are put off visiting beauty spots, he added. There are 1.1 million electric cars in use in the UK, one in every 32 cars, a rise of more than half over the past year, according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. But there are now 30 electric vehicles for each charge point, compared with 16 in 2020, according to Times analysis, suggesting that the infrastructure is insufficient.

Council mowers slash 'beautiful sea' of buttercups

Laurence Sleator

Council gardeners have been accused of wiping out a "beautiful sea" of buttercups.

Dr Tony Juniper, the chairman of Natural England, said that he felt an "incredible sense of sadness" after Cambridge city council gardeners slashed back buttercups, campion and cowslip on Midsummer Common before Strawberry Fair, a music and arts festival, which about 30,000 people will attend on Saturday.

The common, which is next to the Cam river, has been open land since the 12th century. Cows still graze on it during the summer.

Juniper, who lives in Cambridge, said:"Part of the spectacle there before the mowing was this incredible view of a beautiful sea of yellow flowers, a manifestation of biodiversity. The buttercups are a food source for pollinators. A whole variety of insects will feed on the pollen, thereby sustaining the population of invertebrates, which is collapsing across the country. One of the reasons we are seeing that trend is because of the fragmentation and destruction of the habitat that sustains those insects."

The council said it would take part in the national campaign, No Mow May, but a spokesman said: "The grass on this area of the site has been mown ahead of this year's annual Strawberry Fair event so that the space is safe to use for those preparing the site and attending the fair. Midsummer Common is also an important grassland habitat and was purposefully left uncut during early spring to allow the creeping buttercup to flower, for the enjoyment of people and benefit of insects."

Earl comes under fire for rail hub plan

Seren Hughes

An aristocratic family has been criticised by neighbours for its part in plans to build a "hideous" rail freight interchange on green belt land.

The Earl of Verulam and his family have been accused by residents of St Albans, Hertfordshire, of selling part of their land to Segro, the developer, to help fund renovations to their grade II listed home.

Locals have campaigned against the development for more than a decade. Their petition claims that the interchange will increase traffic jams as a result of "thousands of additional HGVs". It also argues that the site of the former Radlett Aerodrome should be "kept for the benefit of the local community".

Three hundred acres of land, part-owned by the earl's Gorhambury Estate and Hertfordshire county council, was sold to Segro this week.

Nuala Webb, a campaign group leader and Lib Dem councillor, told The Sunday Telegraph that residents were angry with the earl and the council for "destroying huge tracts of green belt land" for the "hideous" interchange.

Oliver Dowden, the deputy prime minister, who was brought up in St Albans, said he was "frustrated" that the council had approved the sale.

Segro said the interchange would lead to 3,400 new jobs. It said a 610-acre country park would be created around the terminal and that a 1.4-mile relief road costing £22 million is part of the plan. It added that the interchange would "stimulate economic growth and enhance infrastructure and amenities".

Gorhambury Estate and the council were contacted for comment.

News

Hospitals accused of ignoring ME advice

Kat Lay Health Editor

Thousands of patients with a debilitating condition are being failed by NHS hospitals ignoring treatment guidelines, a report has warned.

In 2021 the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (Nice) produced guidance on how patients with the neurological disorder myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) should be cared for. However, despite those national standards, patients remain unable to access specialist care. Freedom of information data shows "shockingly poor and patchy provision", the charity Action for ME said.

Patients have fluctuating symptoms, including prolonged fatigue, dizziness, muscle pain, gastrointestinal problems and brain fog. In severe cases they can be bed-bound and need to be tube-fed.

Campaigners have fought to correct a misconception that ME, also known as chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), is a psychological or behavioural illness but its causes and the best treatments remain poorly understood.

Only 28 per cent of NHS trusts and integrated care boards, which are responsible for services in local areas, have implemented the Nice guidelines.

Only one person in five with ME has a personalised care and support plan in place, as recommended by the guidelines. Most trusts and care boards keep no information on their ME patients.

Only one in ten (21,927) of the estimated 250,000 patients are recorded in the medical system as having ME. The report said the data "confirms the instincts of the ME community that the vast majority of them have fallen through the cracks and are not being taken seriously by the health and social care system".

Professor David Strain, associate professor of cardiometabolic health at the University of Exeter medical school, said the team behind the Nice guidelines had made clear, evidence-based recommendations.

"We now need to explore whether the lack of implementation is due to a lack of commissioning of services, or whether it represents centres choosing not to follow the guidance and use alternative strategies without an evidence base," he said.

In May last year Sajid Javid, then the health secretary, promised the development of a delivery plan for patient care and research into the condition, but it has been continually delayed.

Sonya Chowdhury, chief executive of Action for ME, said: "The findings indicate significant gaps in services provided for ME/CFS patients at a primary level across England, emphasising the urgency for increased efforts from the health service and the government."

A Department of Health and Social Care spokesman said: "We expect patients presenting with symptoms consistent with ME/CFS to be treated according to clinical need."

DANNY LAWSON/PA



Dropping in A potholer descends into Gaping Gill, in the Yorkshire Dales, during its annual open week. The 110m main chamber is the height of St Paul's Cathedral

NHS shortfalls 'put vulnerable children at risk'

Kat Lay Health Editor

Children are missing key development windows amid "extraordinary" pressure on services, NHS leaders say.

Waiting times of more than a year for community paediatric services, including those offering speech and language therapy and autism diagnosis, are common, a report by the NHS Confederation reveals.

Matthew Taylor, the chief executive, said: "No one should endure waits this long, let alone a child whose development and maturity could be severely delayed as a result."

Nine in ten community health bosses surveyed reported that waiting times for children to get an initial assessment and treatment were worse than before the pandemic.

Miriam Deakin, the director of policy and strategy of NHS Providers said: "More investment, co-ordinated support and a more coherent national policy framework, is needed for these vital community services. Without it, too many children and young people will continue to miss the window for the right care when they need it most."

A government spokesman said: "We are improving support for children, young people, and their families by providing £300 million to fund a three-year Family Hubs and Start for Life programme, in 75 local authorities in England, which includes areas with high levels of deprivation."



Knock it down, owner of 'ugly' mansion is told

Mario Ledwith

A West End theatre producer has been told to knock down his multimillion-pound seaside home after complaints that it resembled a Travelodge hotel.

Villagers in Cley next the Sea, Norfolk, said the timber-clad house built for Adam Spiegel, 54, and his wife, Charlotte, 52, resembled a "fortress". North Norfolk district council agreed with the assessment, saying that the "intrusive" property was not built as authorised.

Spiegel, who has produced the West End shows *The Mousetrap* and *Hairspray*, had fought the decision for nearly four years in an attempt to keep the house standing. However, the government planning inspector has turned down the couple's appeal against the council's decision to refuse changes in planning consent conditions. The couple have now been told they must demolish it by October 18 next year, although they are allowed to keep an annexe and their swimming pool.





Adam Spiegel upset his neighbours living in the flint cottages nearby

The property — called Arcady, meaning "rustic paradise" — sits among flint cottages opposite St Margaret's church, which dates from the 14th century. Planning permission to replace an existing bungalow was granted by the council on the grounds that the new building was sensitive to the local environment. However, a subsequent investigation following a complaint found that there were inconsistencies between the design and build. The council told Spiegel to halt construction until a fresh planning application could be looked at, but work continued and the council served an enforcement notice.

The couple tried to get planning conditions amended last year to allow their home to be approved retrospectively but they were turned down.

Diane Lewis, the planning inspector, said that the original planning drawings for the house were inaccurate and "did not correctly show the proposed dwelling in its proper context". The inspector criticised the blocks of the building for showing "little articulation and subtlety".

The decision to reject the appeal was welcomed by villagers, who described the building as an eyesore. Trish Chapman, 76, a retired office manager, said: "The house looks just awful. I don't know how it got through the planning process and building regulations. You would have thought that it should have been built to the plans which were approved — but it was built far too big. I feel sorry for the family who own it because they have settled in and it is their home. The council have not handled it very well at all."

Godfrey Sayers, 81, a local artist who is chairman of the Friends of North Norfolk, said: "They had permission for a certain size and they went beyond that. There are a lot of old buildings in the area but this house looks like an annexe to a hospital or a university building."

A spokesman said that North Norfolk district council welcomed the decision to refuse consent for the house to stay "in what has been an important and complex case".

Spiegel, son of the Hollywood producer Sam Spiegel, bought the property with his wife in 2017 for £725,000. He did not respond to a request for comment.

ALBANPIX



The house in Cley next the Sea, Norfolk, did not comply with planning permission

'Neighbour from hell' tried to poison cat and kill off plants

Shayma Bakht

A "hellish" neighbour tried to kill a couple's plants and poison their cat as part of her five-year campaign of harassment, a court has been told.

Barbera Minns, 76, was given a six-month suspended sentence last week for terrorising Adele Richards and Gary Authers with attempts to kill their cat, physical assault and threatening them with a knife.

The pair told Truro crown court that the attacks happened so often that they had to keep a harassment diary to give to the police, and that the pensioner would spray Richards with a garden hose and kill their plants with weed killer.

The court was told that Minns would throw dog faeces into the couple's garden and leave rat poison for their cat.

A restraining order that had been made against Minns was revised last year and she had to wear an electronic tag and was put under a curfew.

The court was told this had not dissuaded Minns, who admitted breaching the order on four occasions between July 11, 2022, and April 3 this year. She blasted loud music and dumped leaves on the couple's cat.

Judge Recorder Matthew Turner told Minns at her hearing that her complex needs should be addressed by adult social care teams in the community.

Cameras had been installed at the couple's home in Falmouth to collect evidence of Minns's behaviour, which led to her conviction in 2018 when she was given a 36-week suspended sentence. At that hearing, she was made the subject of a restraining order preventing her from contacting the couple or entering their property.

However, Minns was brought back before West Cornwall magistrates' court to be sentenced in February this year for breaching it. One of the breaches included an assault when she beat Authers on May 22 last year.

In a victim statement read out in court in February, Richards said the cost to their lives was immeasurable: "We live in fear as to what Minns may do next."

Minns had previously denied any wrongdoing, saying: "It is the biggest load of rubbish … Anybody who knows me knows I'm nothing like that."



News

Officers are failing to solve 80 muggings a day

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

More than 30,000 muggings went unsolved last year, the equivalent of 80 a day, according to research.

A total of 56,284 robberies of personal property were reported to the police in England and Wales last year. Of those, 30,079 cases were closed without a suspect being identified. It means that more than half the personal robberies reported last year went unsolved.

Only 8 per cent of the muggings last year led to a suspect being charged, according to research commissioned by the Liberal Democrats and carried out by the House of Commons Library.

The figures refer to offences of robbery of personal property that involve violence or threats to the victim; in other words muggings.

The research found that the worst-performing police force when it came to dealing with muggings was West Midlands police, with only 4 per cent of personal robberies reported last year leading to a suspect being charged. Northamptonshire police charged 5 per cent, and Avon and Somerset police and Hampshire police charged 6 per cent each.

The Liberal Democrats said the figures proved that mugging had in effect become decriminalised. The party is calling for a major shift in policing priorities and a return to community policing, where officers were visible and "trusted" and had time to focus on preventing local crime.

The party pointed to statistics that show that since 2015, about 4,000 police community support officers have been taken off the streets.

Sarah Olney, the Lib Dem Treasury spokeswoman who commissioned the research, said: "These shocking figures show muggings are being effectively decriminalised, with far too many violent criminals let off the hook.

"People are being left feeling unsafe walking down their own local streets because this Conservative government has slashed neighbourhood policing to the bone."

A Home Office spokesman said: "Robbery is an invasive and unsettling crime for victims and we expect police to take all incidents seriously.

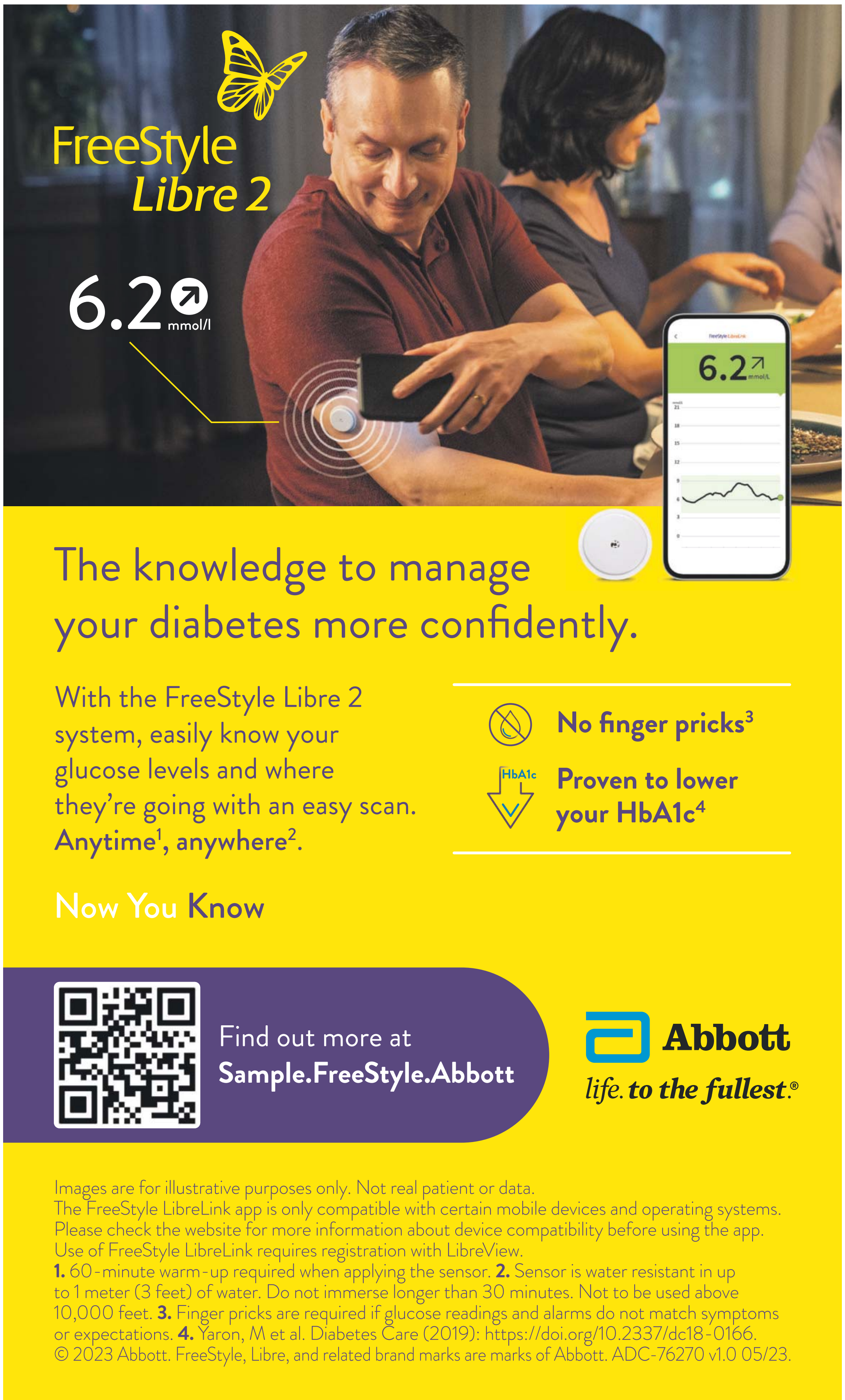
"We are providing police with the resources they need, having delivered on our commitment to recruit 20,000 additional police officers by March 2023, the highest it has ever been.

"We are also supporting police by providing funding for crime prevention measures, including better street lighting and CCTV, and equipping police with better technology to help their investigations and catch more criminals."

Despite police numbers hitting a record level in March, the number of officers per person has fallen because of a rise in the population.

In total 20,951 recruits joined police forces in the past three years, taking the number of officers employed in England and Wales to an all-time high of 149,572. However, the population in England and Wales has grown by about four million since 2010.

In 2010 there was one officer for every 360 people but now there is one officer for every 378 people, a decrease of 4.6 per cent.



TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER JAMES GLOSSOP



In the picture Stained glass conservation specialists at Barley Studio, Dunnington, near York, working to restore and preserve panes taken from Salford Cathedral

Police support on child abuse

Danny Shaw
Fiona Hamilton Crime Editor

The partners and children of paedophiles are to get police support for the first time as online sex abuse rises.

A dedicated officer will visit families and offer support as an acknowledgment they are also suffering "massive trauma". A pilot scheme is running in Lincolnshire and other forces are expected to adopt similar measures.

Simon Bailey, a former chief constable who was the national lead for child protection, has warned that soaring sex abuse reports represent a real leap in offences, not just an increase in people reporting them to the police. He described online child sexual abuse as a "global pandemic".

PC Tom Scott, of Lincolnshire police, supports people when a relative is arrested for viewing child abuse images or sending indecent material to children online. Previously families did not get support because they do not fall under the Victims Code. Scott said the relatives were left in limbo after seeing a family member arrested. The constable is supporting 43 families at present until their cases end . "It's not a 'nice to have' role, it's essential," he said.

Met will ignore health call-outs

Debbie White

Metropolitan Police officers will not respond to mental health-related calls unless there is a possible threat to life in an attempt to free thousands of hours a month to combat spiralling crime.

Sir Mark Rowley, the commissioner, outlined the move in a letter to health and social care partners, saying the force would start its ban from August 31.

According to The Guardian, his letter added that while "this may be challenging…the status quo is untenable".

The letter follows a government push to release police time following concern that officers are now a "stopgap" for other agencies. The new scheme for the 43 forces in England and Wales is called Right Care, Right Person and is aimed at ensuring the most appropriate response to calls for help.

A Home Office evaluation has calculated that 880,000 hours of police time are spent on non-urgent mental health call-outs. Saving these would be the equivalent of freeing up about 450 officers a year. Met officers were spending 10,000 hours a month on mental health-related incidents with handovers to medical staff taking up to 14 hours, Rowley wrote.

Grieving parents find solace in sharing stories

Charlie Parker

The death of any family member is a heartbreaking experience but to lose a child is perhaps the most painful. Now a group of parents have come together to prove that it is possible to "grow around grief".

Speaking at the Hay Festival to mark Celebration Day, they called for Britain to break its silence around death and collectively celebrate the lives of loved ones who have died.

A composer, an author and a former police inspector shared deeply personal accounts about the shock of losing their children and offered advice for others who are suffering. Talking about trauma can help to alleviate its symptoms, the parents said before their panel discussion on Sunday.

Clare Mackintosh, a former Thames Valley police inspector, and her husband took the difficult decision to remove life support from their critically ill son in 2006. As an officer, she regularly carried out "death knocks", breaking the news to people about the deaths of family members.

"It was impossible to predict their reaction," the 46-year-old said. "I only understood how complex grief was when my son died. I realised my emotions changed from hour to hour — sometimes from minute to minute.

"That what I needed from friends and family one day was the very opposite to what I needed the next; that grief isn't something we ever 'get over' but simply learn to live with."

Mackintosh went on to become a full-time writer. She said: "Grief has given me a greater depth of compassion, an empathy that made me a better police officer and subsequently a better writer."

She is part of a four-person panel at the event raising awareness about Celebration Day, a new national event that encourages the public to remember friends and family members who have died.

Lizzie Pickering, 57, said that she learnt that "time doesn't heal" after the death of her son, Harry, 23 years ago. Instead "I have grown around my grief", she said. "That closure feels like an alien concept but connecting to the person who has died feels far more comfortable."

James McConnel, 65, a composer, said that he experienced grief in a "variety of flavours" after the death of his son, Freddy, who died of a heroin overdose in 2011, and a close friend, Kit.

"Nothing else comes close," he said. "You name it: sadness, guilt, shock, guilt, disbelief, guilt, shame, anger, guilt, terrible sense of waste … also relief … that the years of addiction and rows and rehabs and mayhem were over." The trauma was the hardest thing to handle, he recalled, adding that "any notion of celebration is therefore impossible" until it settles down.

Losing a parent is no easier. The fourth panellist, Osman Yousefzada, 45, an artist and writer, said that his grief "comes in waves" after his mother died a year ago. He cannot bear to look at recent photographs of her and prefers older pictures of when she was a young new arrival in England.

"She is sitting on a wooden bed frame, in full brocade regalia," he said. "Her presence envelops me periodically, like a haze, an aura that is mostly comforting. But the empty space and the worlds we inhabit are so different."

One way grieving Britons are being encouraged to celebrate their dead this year is through planting trees.

The Times and the National Trust have joined forces to offer 5,000 trees to our readers that will be planted in memory of friends and family in a new woodland.

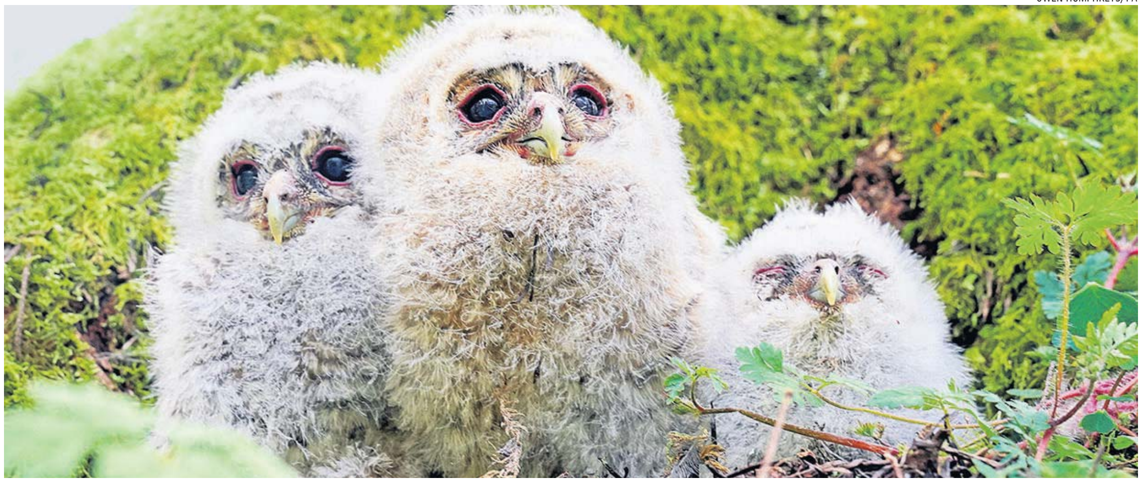
The "living memorial" will be planted in autumn near Dunham Massey in Greater Manchester. They are available as part of a giveaway that ends on June 11.

For more details, see thetimes.co.uk.



Clare Mackintosh said grief helped her writing

OWEN HUMPHREYS/PA



Looking up Tawny owls in Kielder Forest, Northumberland, are enjoying a baby boom, with 90 pairs having chicks this year

So you think it's all over? Succession may yet return

Mario Ledwith

After four seasons of strife under the tyrannical Logan Roy, his children's jostling for control of the family media empire has finally reached its climax.

Much to the disappointment of its global fan base, the finale of *Succession* was being aired in the early hours, promising an answer to the question of who will take on Roy's Waystar Royco.

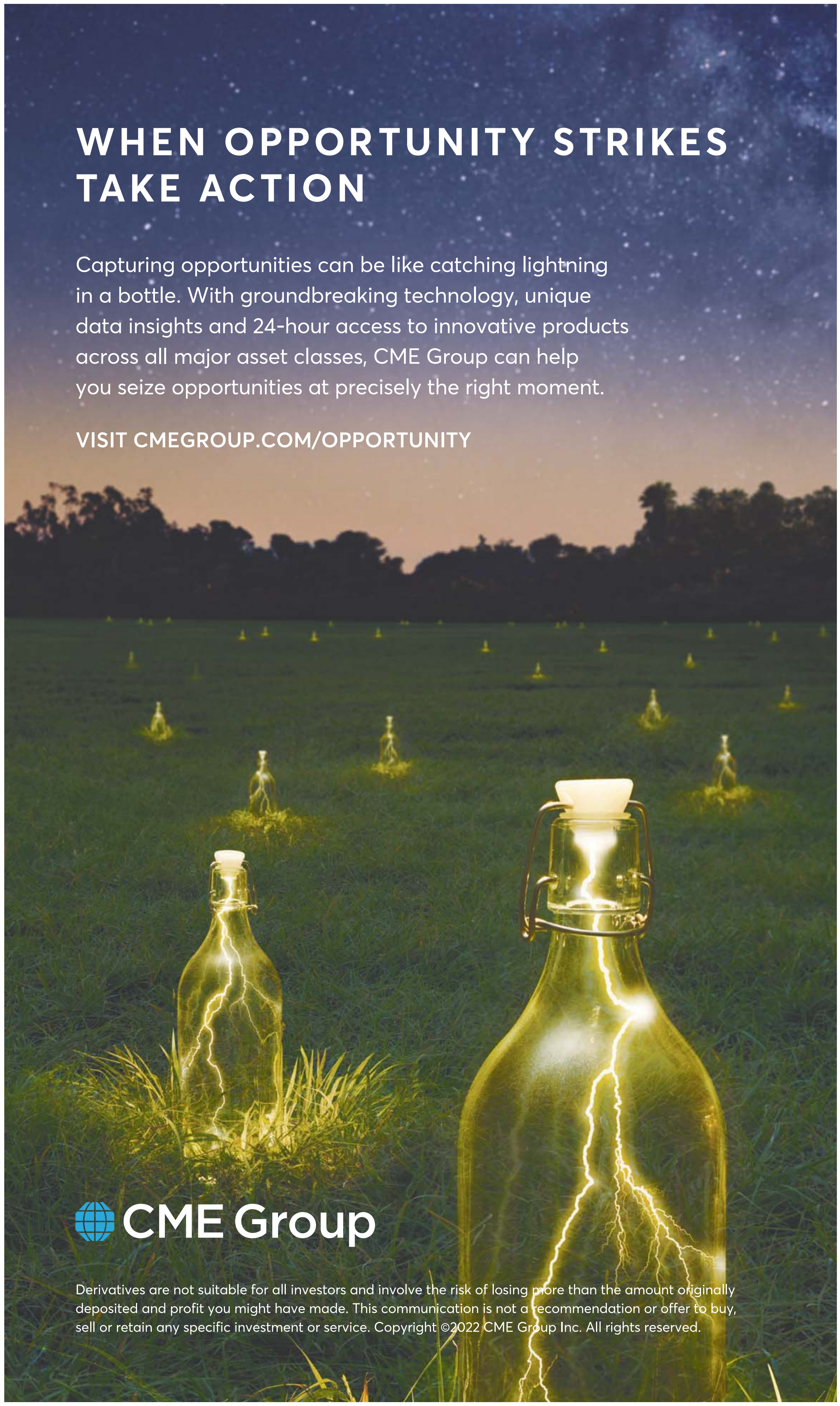
Yet assurances that the episode would conclude the dynastical drama have been tempered by some of its stars. Actors said the show's creator, Jesse Armstrong, has floated ideas for a fifth series, despite standing behind his decision to bring the story to an end.

Kieran Culkin, who plays Roman Roy, youngest son of the media mogul, recalled discussing the current season with Armstrong during filming.

"Jesse described to me the whole season before we shot," he told Vanity Fair. "I asked him one question and when he answered it, I said, 'Well that sort of sounds like the end of the show'."

"He goes, 'Yeah, it does.' But then he just threw up three different ideas for a season five that he claimed were off the top of his head. I was like, 'I'm just speaking my mind here. But those all sound like really awesome'."

J Smith-Cameron, who plays Waystar Royco executive Gerri Killman, said that she was still unsure about whether Armstrong could resist returning to the Roy family drama. "It's very hard to grieve because it's like, is it the last?," she told the BBC's Americast.



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MAIN PAPER



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MAIN PAPER

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MEHREEN KHAN
Has Brexit inflicted lasting economic damage?
MAIN PAPER

Killer pilot faces longer in prison

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

A former British Airways captain who bludgeoned his wife to death could be the first prisoner to have his release from jail blocked by ministers after Alex Chalk, the justice secretary, announced that he is pressing ahead with controversial parole reforms.

Chalk met the mother of Joanna Simpson this month and told her that he hopes to get legislation passed by November — in time to veto Robert Brown's release from jail after serving 13 years of a 26-year sentence.

Brown was found guilty of killing his 46-year-old wife in their family home in Windsor in 2010.

There have been growing calls from senior Conservatives for Chalk to ditch reforms to the Parole Board system proposed by his predecessor Dominic Raab.

However in an interview with The Times, Chalk said that he hopes the changes, which are going through parliament as part of the government's Victims and Prisoners Bill, would be on the statute book before Brown is due to be released in November.

Under the changes, ministers would have the power to veto the release of dangerous prisoners repeatedly, even if approved by the Parole Board.

The ministerial veto, which is expected to relate to about 600 prison releases a year, would enable ministers to block the release of murderers, rapists and terrorists until they had served their full sentence.

On a visit to HMP High Down, a category C training prison in Surrey, last week, Chalk told The Times that his meeting with Diana Parkes, Simpson's mother, and one of her friends, had reaffirmed his decision to press ahead with the plans. Chalk said: "I will say to you what I said to them — that I was very affected by what I heard from them and I will do everything I properly can within the law to ensure that justice is done in their case."

Sir John Major, the former prime minister, and David Gauke, the former justice secretary, have warned that the plans would give ministers "worrying" powers, with ministers in danger of being swayed by public opinion.

Chalk said: "Ministers themselves have to be accountable and that is being built into the system.

"But when it comes to those serious offenders, protecting the public is a top priority and I am absolutely determined to follow through on that principle."

Brown was acquitted of murder by a jury in 2011 after previously admitting manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. He has served 13 years of a 26-year sentence and, because of the lesser charge, he will not face a Parole Board hearing.

However, Chalk has said that he could use his powers as justice secretary to refer the case to the Parole Board. If they approved his release, Chalk would be able to block his release if the new ministerial veto powers were on the statute book.

Gauke called the plans "worrying", while Major said they were "ill-advised". He said: "This is a very slippery slope. I do not think that any politician should have that power, and I hope the new justice secretary will reconsider or — if he does not — that parliament will deny it."

The move is likely to lead to about 600 decisions being made by ministers every year, which would amount to about two per day.

Officials didn't run basic checks on murderer refugee

Dominic Kennedy

A double murderer from Afghanistan who pretended to be a child to seek asylum was free to kill again because of blunders by British officials.

Lawangeen Abdulrahimzai, who had previously murdered two men in Serbia, fatally stabbed Thomas Roberts, 21, a nightclub DJ, in the chest. An unpublished Home Office inquiry discovered a failure to complete basic checks into the killer, 18, who said he was a 14-year-old orphan, was sent to a foster family and enrolled at school.

He stabbed Roberts, from Bournemouth, twice in the chest during an argument over an electric scooter last year.

Abdulrahimzai arrived in Britain in 2019. Officials failed to perform a fingerprint search of the European database of asylum seekers, paperwork mix-ups stalled checks on his identity and a red flag on his violent past was followed up only after he had killed in Britain, The Mail on Sunday said.

MPs called for an investigation into what they described as the total system failure when the killer was convicted of murder and sentenced to life with a minimum term of 29 years by Salisbury crown court in January.

The Afghan, born in 2001, fled from Serbia after shooting 18 rounds of a Kalashnikov into two countrymen in an argument over trafficking in 2018. He was convicted in his absence.

Tobias Ellwood, the Conservative MP for Bournemouth East who requested the Home Office investigation, said the findings should be published so lessons could be learnt. "This reveals the litany of red flags missed that would have exposed how dangerous Abdulrahimzai was," he told the newspaper.

Abdulrahimzai will be considered for deportation after serving his sentence.



Latest from Pixar is beautiful but drippy

Film Ed Potton

Elemental
Cannes Film Festival
★★★☆☆

PIXAR



Ember and Wade, voiced by Leah Lewis and Mamoudou Athie, live in a diverse, New York-style city — but their families are not entirely convinced by their relationship

Element City, home to immigrants made of fire, water, air and land (well, trees), is the setting for Pixar's latest, a flawed but big-hearted tale of forbidden love. Ember Lumen is a fiery redhead whose parents own a convenience store in Fire Town and spontaneously combusts when she loses her temper. Wade Ripple is a soppy water element who works as a safety inspector and is prone to fits of geyser-like crying. You can see why dating could be tricky.

Elemental is not quite the triumphant adieu that the Cannes organisers would have hoped for in their closing film. The first hour juggles sweet details with quite a few shortcomings. The allegory is pretty one-note — the city is a stand-in for New York and it's about immigration and not much else. The story hangs on the unsexy plot device of a leaking pipe, the leading man, Wade, is (literally) insubstantial and there is no villain to speak of.

Yet the emotion of the final section is sold so hard that the film emerges in credit. Much of that emotion comes from a transcendent score by Thomas Newman, who has been nominated for 15 Oscars for films including *American Beauty* and *The Shawshank Redemption*, and a gorgeous theme song by Lauv, the American alternative pop artist. The music helps give some of the sequences a serene beauty that made me think of Japanese anime. There's a virtuoso opening in which trains, boats and airships disgorge the various elemental newcomers into the city.

The movie is impressively diverse — its director, Peter Sohn, is Korean-American, while Leah Lewis, who voices Ember, is Chinese-American, Mamoudou Athie (Wade) is Mauritanian-American and Ronnie del Carmen (Ember's dad, Bernie) is Filipino. Fire Town has hints of Little Italy, Spanish Harlem and above all Chinatown, with Ember under pressure to marry a nice fire boy and take over the family business. Wade's family, meanwhile, are classic arty liberals. Bernie is not impressed. "Not all water looks alike," his daughter chides him.

The big question, of course, is how will Ember and Wade get it on? Will she vapourise him or will he extinguish her? That's handled exquisitely in a largely wordless scene. As for the ending — let's just say I was doing my best impression of teary Wade.

PG, 102min. In cinemas from July 7

Quantum leap that will decode your private app

Tom Whipple Science Editor

Matt Hancock, be warned. It is not just fellow MPs and ghost writers who might leak your WhatsApp messages. You should start fretting about foreign intelligence agencies too.

Quantum computers that can crack internet encryption may be closer than we think, security experts say. If so, that means that anything sent securely today might be stored to be decrypted when such systems arrive — possibly within a decade.

Last week IBM announced its intention to build a "100,000 qubit" quantum computer by 2033, in partnership with the Universities of Chicago and Tokyo. If successful, it would mean that the long-anticipated technology could at last start to become useful, for good and ill.

Jay Gambetta, the vice-president of quantum at IBM, said: "The potential of having a system within the next ten years that is capable of breaking encryption … I would say it is relatively high."

The computers we are more used to run on "bits", encoded to be 1s and 0s. Quantum computers rely on "qubits", which exploit quantum mechanical effects to, in some sense, use all the numbers in between. At present, the largest systems are able to control a few hundred such qubits, which is not enough to usefully exploit them. Larger ones have the potential to revolutionise some fields, including drug discovery and materials science.

One of the things they can also do, in theory, is break internet encryption. At present much of the secure traffic on the internet, including messaging apps, relies on a system known as public key cryptography. This is based on mathematical problems that are easy to perform in one direction but very difficult in another.

Large quantum computers, though, would be able to do it relatively easily — and so crack most encryption. This has prompted a move that, in effect, replumbs the internet. The US government has selected a series of encryption standards that are "quantum safe" but they have not been widely implemented yet.

Security experts caution that this is increasingly a problem, the closer we get to such computers. Although anything sent on apps such as WhatsApp is now uncrackable, and nothing is held centrally, messages can be intercepted and stored in anticipation of the day when they can be read.

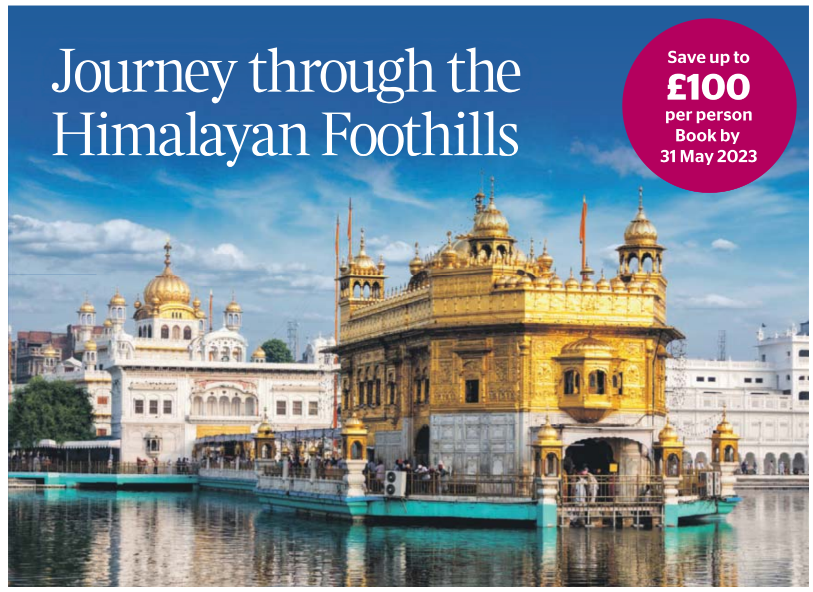
Last week Moody's, the ratings agency, warned that companies were "woefully unprepared" for the threats posed by quantum computing. While some government communications were "hardened against sophisticated adversaries", a spokesman for the UK's National Cyber Security Centre said, "some confidential data that an adversary can collect now will be vulnerable in future".

Gambetta said: "I would say to every MP in Britain that they should be starting to think about this transition to quantum."

The challenges to making a useful quantum computer are still formidable. Gambetta said that with present power consumption, 100,000 qubits would need a nuclear power station.

Christophe Petit, a security researcher at Birmingham University, said that for the past 30 years, people had been telling him quantum computers were ten years off.

However, he said we should begin implementing algorithms that could not be broken by quantum. "It takes time to update all the architecture. We would need to act now even if quantum was coming in 30 years."



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Jenni Russell
Page 24

Comment

The £28 billion question Starmer must answer

Whether Labour can get away with borrowing for green spending will test how much politics has changed since 1992

Patrick Maguire



It remains among the most shocking things any aide to Jeremy Corbyn ever committed to text. As the summer of 2019 reached its dog days, Andrew Fisher, then Labour's head of policy, made a modest proposal in a memo to colleagues. Perhaps they should appoint Rachel Reeves as shadow minister for mental health? To almost all involved it seemed an outlandish if not appalling prospect. Not Fisher. Reeves, he argued, was "solid on the finances … and increasingly radical and in the same place on economic issues".

It never happened. But Fisher's apology for Reeves now feels uncommonly perceptive. Solid on the finances. Radical on economic issues. If you put that description to the shadow chancellor she would not demur, regardless of its authorship. Nor would the public, at least on the former point. Reeves comfortably outpolls Jeremy Hunt, seen by voters as the devalued chancellor — to borrow John Smith's line — of a devalued government. But what now worries some at the top of the Labour Party, however, is the extent to which radicalism and solidity can be reconciled.

Almost nothing now fazes the people who put words in Sir Keir Starmer's mouth. They claim to see around the corners where Tory ambushes lie in wait. Hence last week's decision to stake out a position on migration Suella Braverman would have been happy to claim as her own. On most Wednesday afternoons, Starmer uses his six questions to Rishi Sunak to pick the very fights the Conservatives train hardest for: migration, small boats, crime and economic growth. These choices are divisive — Starmer can take some convincing — but deliberate. Frame the difficult issues first, lest you be framed. As those who have played football with him complain, the Labour leader does not shirk a tackle.

Mostly true. But there is an exception: The Twenty-Eight Billion. Mention that number in the presence of a member of Starmer's office or the shadow cabinet and there inevitably comes a heavy sigh. For £28 billion is the amount Labour says it will invest in green industries every year it is in government. Or, to put it in the terms they fear will be expressed to voters by the Conservative Party: £28 billion is the amount Labour will borrow every year to be spent by Ed Miliband's new climate change ministry. "That £28 billion," one of Starmer's closest advisers told me, "is a risk if it is not explained properly. And we haven't explained it yet." The Labour leader will try in a speech in the coming weeks.

> The leadership doesn't yet know what the public is willing to hear

Reeves gave it a go in Washington last week. To run the transatlantic gauntlet is a rite of passage for aspirants to power in both the US and UK: George Wallace was violently sick in Harold Wilson's study, Neil Kinnock had just half an hour with Ronald Reagan. She, however, managed to both avoid humiliation and sketch out a coherent if opaquely named economic policy — always harder for the Labour Party than it ought to be.

The précis of "securonomics" is this: the world of frictionless global trade is over, and the economies of western democracies must adapt. Coherent industrial strategy and state support for the industries of the future can help build resilience to the sort of shocks that so exposed Britain — the 2008 financial crash, Covid, Ukraine — and reindustrialise areas left behind by globalisation. Labour's plans pre-date President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act but the thinking is much the same. Hence why "security" has become the third most important word in the vernacular of Starmerism after "toolmaker" and "nurse".

And so to the £28 billion. Not that Reeves is talking about £28 billion. "Our green prosperity plan," she said, "will be at the heart of all of this … we will make public investments in the industries that are crucial to Britain's future success." On the same trip, however, Reeves did not deny that the £28 billion is still, despite its exalted place in Labour's thinking, liable to be cut under her own fiscal rules, which stipulate that government debt must fall over the lifetime of a Starmer government. She is committed to the £28 billion — and to her fiscal rules being met.

Radical on economic issues. Solid on the finances. Here it all begins to buckle beneath the weight of those two competing obligations. Can the Labour Party convince voters of the case for borrowing on this scale? Does it want to? At the annual conference of Blairite think tank Progressive Britain a couple of weeks ago I chaired a discussion with Wes Streeting, the shadow health secretary. Of Pat McFadden, the shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, he told the room: "If you say spending three times, he apparates with [a] scythe." Everybody laughed.



Rachel Reeves outlined a coherent economic policy in America last week

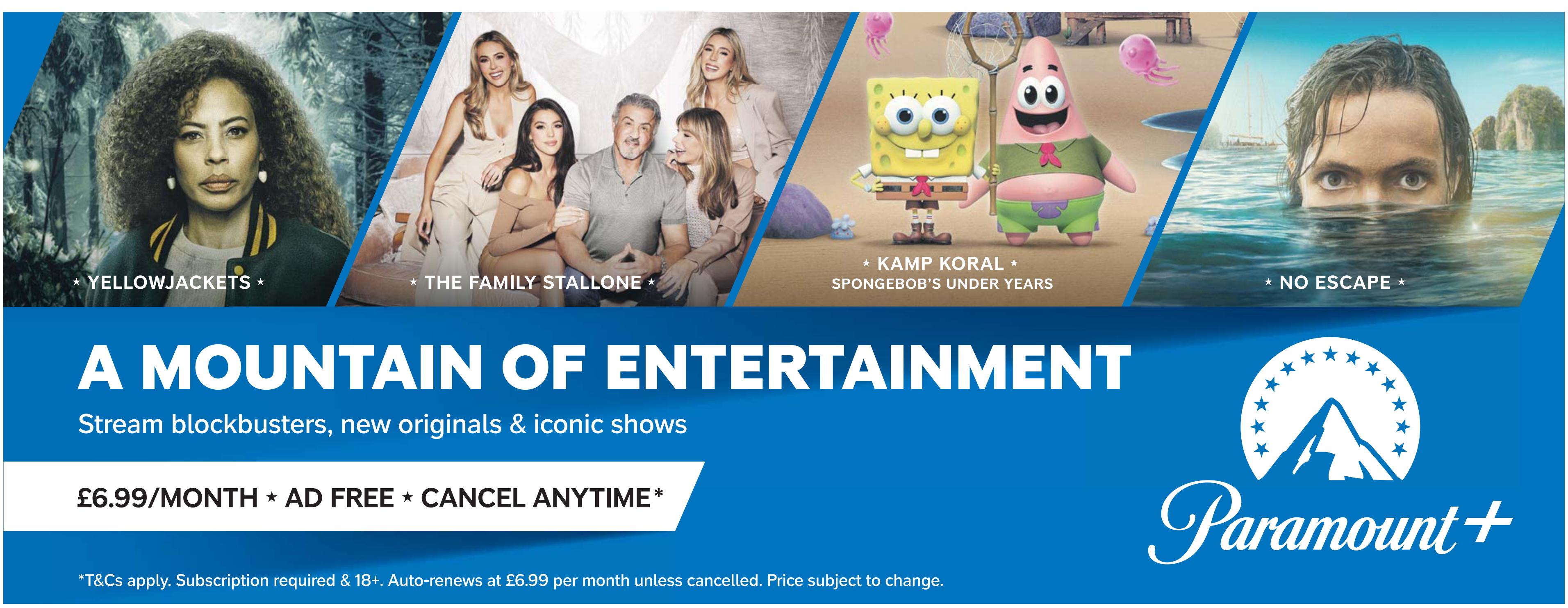
Does that sound like a team that will fight to the death to defend Ed Miliband's favourite policy under hostile questioning? Consider this gale-force reaction from an influential Starmer ally to reports that Labour could ban new North Sea oil and gas developments: "Crackers, reckless, vote-losing stuff. Let's buy it from Putin and the Libyans instead. Never mind the jobs."

The truth is that the Labour leadership don't quite yet know what the public are willing to hear — an uncertainty attributed to its reliance on focus groups over polling. "We will focus on what it will deliver — green steel, battery factories, sustainable aviation fuel — rather than the input," says one shadow cabinet minister. In other words: expect to hear much less about the £28 billion. Here is the same sentiment paraphrased by a senior aide to the Labour leader: "We can sell jobs, lower bills and national security to the public. We probably can't sell billions more debt." Even pithier, from another Starmer strategist: "We should just call it the f*** the Russians fund." Each expresses the same sentiment with varying degrees of delicacy: that borrowing is a word Starmer dare not speak.

> 'It's crackers, reckless, vote-losing stuff, never mind the jobs'

But for now that is all it is — an assumption, old lessons unthinkingly applied to a new world. "Do the public feel differently if they hear Rachel say 'I will borrow to invest', relative to Hunt or indeed Keir saying: 'I will borrow to invest'? Or is it that the public can't be sold on any borrowing at all?", says a Labour strategist. That is the £28 billion question. "Blairites will tell you one thing. They might be right. But that is the burden of 1992 talking. We genuinely don't know. Nobody has tested it." I'm told that polling is now under way. Solid on the finances. Radical on economic issues. If Labour is willing to do both at once and the £28 billion makes it all the way to an election, then something fundamental will have changed in British politics.

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Our anti-education system stifles curiosity

Rigid curriculum and lax behaviour are in the worst interests of both pupils and teachers

Jenni Russell



@JENNIRSL

It is the season of ritual agonising pointlessness for children, parents and schools. Teenagers are desperately memorising the facts they must regurgitate and techniques they must deploy in four-mark, five-mark or 12-mark exam answers while anxious parents dread their failure to get the grades they need to succeed. So much is being tested and so little learnt; so much is at stake and so little is of real value.

Britain has constructed an education system that is simultaneously extremely stressful and woefully unproductive. It produces soaring grades and magically expanding top degrees, but nobody believes the quality of school leavers and graduates is higher than in the past. The proportion of 21-year-olds awarded a first has gone up from about 1 per cent 40 years ago to about 12 per cent now, without there being a 12-fold increase in brilliant minds. Universities offer workshops for students who can't write essays without being spoon-fed, businesses are forced to run remedial courses in maths and English, companies can't find enough skilled recruits.

We've had 25 years of experimenting with an increasingly focused curriculum, where students are taught for the test rather than allowed time to consider, question and read around a subject. Teachers dare not stray into wider discussions: they don't have time, and can't risk students adding extraneous information to their answers which would detract from the mark scheme.

Pupils learn to restrict their curiosity, rote-learn, be bored. Knowledge becomes something to be kept in compartmentalised boxes, brought out at set moments and used in set phrases, not a jumping-off point for exciting connections between facts and ideas. Independent thinking and inventiveness are discouraged in favour of passivity and memorisation.

This is the anti-education system. It isn't even working on its own terms, despite all the claims that this process drives up standards. The international assessment body Pisa discovered, alarmingly, that England was the only country in the developed world where those aged 55 to 64 had better literacy and numeracy than those aged 16 to 24.

> We are trashing our best asset: the verve and drive of youth

This experience is draining and depressing even for academic children in high-achieving schools. They at least work in well-ordered classrooms and can see the eventual social and professional rewards for slogging on. The highest costs are imposed on those teaching and learning in ordinary schools, those with average or deprived intakes. There the combination of a strict dreary curriculum with children of wildly differing abilities who cannot see the point of a school machine that keeps rolling on without them is frequently a disaster. Pupils misbehave, teachers are overwhelmed, children who want to work can't concentrate, quiet children who don't understand are stranded.

This hidden crisis is under-reported because powerful people rarely have children in tougher schools, and it's not in the interests of individual teachers and heads to acknowledge the extent of it. Jobs and reputations depend on disguising what's happening. But it is a reality. In 2018 Policy Exchange published "It Just Grinds You Down", a paper on the crisis of adult authority in the classroom. Three quarters of teachers faced frequent disruption, a fifth had seen a teacher being attacked, 13 per cent felt unsafe in school and almost two thirds had considered resigning over behaviour. More than half said children's learning was regularly disrupted. They reported that schools failed to impose stated sanctions, even on those caught taking drugs or attacking other pupils, and that such inconsistency made everyone's behaviour deteriorate further.

The pandemic, which cut so many children off from education and the habit of it, has exacerbated the problem. Half of all children in reception last year arrived not ready to learn; they couldn't concentrate, listen or follow simple instructions. The mother of a 14-year-old in a well-regarded state school says her son's class has fallen apart this year because four boys who have fallen behind wreck all lessons daily; walking about, filming in class, watching TikTok, punching victims, jeering at teachers. Detentions, suspensions and calls home are futile as neither the parents nor the boys care. School has nothing to offer the sons except the glorious opportunity to practise domination and exult in their power. The remaining children wilt. "I tell my son I'll get him tutored for exams but meanwhile this is just prison; I have to keep his spirit alive until the release date."

This month the survey app TeacherTapp reported that in 2023 a third of their respondents said their most recent lesson had been disrupted by bad behaviour, a rate consistently above the five-year average. Far too many British schools combine a rigid curriculum with an elastic behaviour policy when what's needed is just the opposite. The rare exceptions flourish.

These facts undermine politicians' airy promises to improve Britain's skills and drive up standards. They are hot air. We have been trashing the best asset we have: the verve and drive of youth. In this time of AI and ChatGPT it's imperative we radically reform what and how we teach. Start from first principles: what will a 21st-century adult need? It's not fronted adverbials or the rote learning of chemistry equations by children who detest science. Other countries, such as Finland, Estonia and even the once didactic Singapore do it better. They engage and excite children alongside knowledge and challenge, preparing them to be confident, creative and questioning. We are falling behind. We have to catch up.

THUNDERER

As Everest shows, action on climate change is critical

Helen Clark

Seventy years ago today, my illustrious countryman Sir Edmund Hillary stood alongside Tenzing Norgay at the peak of Everest, the first two humans to reach the top of the world. Today I've trekked to Namche Bazaar, a village in the Everest region, to pay tribute to these two men. Standing with Everest in view, it's clear that its magnetism, which draws people in their hundreds each year, with dreams of endurance and conquest, is as strong as ever.

But it is also clear this magnificent landscape is now in peril. Global temperature rises mean that Everest, in common with mountains across the Himalayas, is undergoing unprecedented and irreversible change. The 79 glaciers that surround Everest have thinned by more than 100 metres (328ft) in just six decades, and the rate of thinning has nearly doubled since 2009.

Among those is the Khumbu glacier, the starting place for most expeditions, including that of Hillary and Tenzing. Ice at Base Camp, scientists say, has thinned by 75 metres (246ft) and is just degrees away from "runaway melt".

These glaciers are far more than launchpads for climbers. Holding the largest frozen body of water after the North and South poles, the 54,000 glaciers in the Hindu Kush Himalayas are a critical source of fresh water for nearly 2 billion people.

Losing them, together with the increasingly erratic rain and snowfall that climate change brings, risks destabilising Asia's river systems and threatening lives and livelihoods in a region where a third of the population already suffer from food insecurity, says the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development.

Yet, despite their global importance, these awesome landscapes, which contain some of the greatest diversity of cultures and lifeforms on earth, seldom get the attention they warrant.

There are people in Namche Bazaar who still remember a Sherpa being sent running to share news of Hillary's and Tenzing's successful first summit in 1953. The story broke on the front page of this newspaper on the day of the late Queen's coronation. Since then, the world has experienced decades of human progress and technological innovation. But that progress was underwritten by fossil fuels, which must be condemned to history.

Communities at the top of the world are crying out to world leaders for help. Humanity has a mountain to climb in reaching the aspirations of the Paris Agreement. The only hope is for concerted global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions dramatically to save the world's snow and ice before it is too late.

Helen Clark is former prime minister of New Zealand

Sathnam Sanghera Notebook

Ordering my fast food requires a human touch

Technology has, in general, improved the modern retail experience. The QR codes on the tables at chains such as Wagamama are miraculous, enabling you to settle the bill and leave without the inane ritual of capturing a waiter's attention by mimicking the signing of a cheque (something you've probably not done in two decades). Self-service checkouts are a blessing for people in a rush: you can grab and pay for your monolunch from the Co-op in 90 seconds flat (one day I'll get it below a minute).

But the large touch-screens for ordering that have started emerging at fast food joints are a disaster. They invariably involve navigating a sequence of separate starter, mains and drinks menus when no one has ever conceived of a burger order in such a way (and when you used to be able to just point at a "meal deal" above the counter). When you finally manage to assemble a meal, you're upsold in a way that only ever happened at WHSmith before (if I wanted miso soup, I would have selected it). To check out, you're given an array of pointless payment options (what is "Itsu money"?).

A screen I used at a motorway service station at the weekend began by asking if I wanted to log in to my online account (I'd be surprised if even Ronald McDonald has ever done that). Sometimes you order, only to be told by staff at the counter that the item is out of stock (something that would have become immediately apparent in a traditional transaction). And you're often asked to type in your name (giving your name really should not be necessary to buy a rice box at Leon).

It's obvious why businesses like these screens: it reduces the number of people they have to employ. But they've replaced the ease of the human retail experience with the protracted nature of online ordering. It's bearable when you're buying items hundreds of miles away, but maddening when you want something from a kitchen five metres from you.



Taking a back seat

Most people pray to be upgraded on overnight long-haul flights, but this weekend my girlfriend and I found ourselves pleading to be downgraded. The destination was Las Vegas, and the problem was that our seats on the heavily delayed, ten-hour flight were in the middle of a group of lads on a stag. Has any movie damaged a destination more than *The Hangover*?

The lads had been drinking heavily during the delay, despite being warned that they might not be allowed onto the flight, and the air was thick with lager fumes. They cheered every pilot announcement, and, sitting with our critically acclaimed novels, we were reminded of the late comedian Bill Hicks describing taking a seat in a diner in a similar situation. The lads around him remarked, forebodingly: "Oh look, I think we've got ourself a reader". My panic must have been plain, as before long a stewardess was offering us the worst seats on the plane, next to the toilets. I've been less grateful being upgraded to first.

Writer's block

A report has found the median earnings of a self-employed writer in the UK are just £7,000 a year. It's bizarre, therefore, that an increasing number of high-end brands are called "Author". These include a range of skincare products, an ethical children's clothing concern, a "curator and exclusive retailer of exquisite, hand-crafted furniture, gifts and interior accessories", a shoe shop and a magazine that claims to occupy the ground "where Fashion, Design, Beauty, and Travel meet". I've even spotted a flash new property development in King's Cross called Author. The building work will, presumably, be left until the last possible moment, when there'll be a crazed day-and-night dash to complete everything before deadline. I can't explain the phenomenon, except for the possibility that so few people can now afford to write for a living that the whole concept of an author has, like travel to Mars, become highly aspirational.

Tall tale

Tweet of the month, @craiguito: There's an old tale that Keith Urban and John Legend once formed a duo. Not sure how true it is.

@SATHNAM



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Now showing: a new life for seaside people

Ireland's coastal fringes show us how villages once in decline have been reinvigorated, and look energetically outward

Libby Purves

@LIB_THINKS

Bank holiday, and from Dunwich to Dingle Bay the dream of sunshine draws millions to the seaside. All Europe has summer migrations, but maybe island people dream most intensely of blue water. It just feels right. And the idyll is often a village or small town, cosy behind its breakwater, a fantasy neighbourhood far from city towers: Balamory, Pontypandy or Posy Simmonds' satirical middle-class Tresoddit.

Living in such a place you watch the relaxation setting in: visitors' shoulders dropping, necks relaxing, random smiles in workaday shops declaring a longing to belong. It's rather beautiful. Then, as an outsider in other people's seaside worlds you notice yourself doing it too.

I thought about the therapies and perils of this last week at the Fastnet Film Festival, created 15 years ago by locals in Schull, West Cork. It showcases short films — five to 20 minutes long, from the smoothly professional to smartphone creativity. Halls and pubs show, in hour-long sets, 474 entries from 42 countries: miniature stories, reflections, documentaries, animations from China, Ukraine, Iceland. The festival's existence demonstrates the character of a big village able to look energetically outward: healthily inhabited, neither a wearily cynical tourist trap nor sleepy retirement. It has been able to grow and just about keep its younger generation despite the usual creeping plague of Airbnb rentals and underused holiday homes.

I was fascinated by one session of archive films, which illustrated the conundrum of seaside communities. First came 1950s' and early 1960s' travelogues ("Beauty abounds in the Land of the Leprechaun", etc) , with sweeping colour-saturated pictures of rocks, sea, churches and people

Retirees and holiday-homers should not ban new dwellings

kissing the Blarney Stone. These films were met with a certain hilarity, especially from locals. The tone was of innocent discovery: postwar families with their first cars rolling off the ferry seeking toy shillelaghs and gnarled old men in hats chivvying calves into rowing boats.

But after that retro allure we saw *Irish Village*, the 1959 documentary about Crookhaven and Goleen just down the road. Its monochrome tone is of decline: a dwindling population, the old dying off, farmers having to work a few months over in England to raise the hire-price of a tractor, the young leaving. The irony was that the romance of those contemporaneous tourist-pulling films had depended on just this: inhabitants being quaintly out of date and poor enough to be glad of tourist money. During one relentlessly jolly voiceover about market day in Rosscarbery, I warmed to one old man who noticed the camera and gave it a very dirty look. It is not dignified to have outsiders turning up to watch you declining picturesquely against nice scenery, with nothing modern except the facilities just for them.

I felt a tiny edge of this in our ten years' farming with horses: people at our tiny Portakabin farm shop saying patronisingly, "You must be so busy, as a farmer's wife!". To which the only acceptable reply was a fictional, "Arr yes, oi'm just a-potting up my chutneys," whereas in fact they had interrupted me desperately hammering out articles to pay the mortgage. They probably wouldn't make assumptions so easily post-Covid, with WFH and hybrid careers.

There are still practical drawbacks in living on the edge: lousy public transport, the necessary plague of delivery vans, the influx of city dogs that don't understand sheep and children who clamber on beached boats. But the internet makes it easier for communities to survive without a dangerously total dependence on tourism. The Irish example here last week is notable: a local yet international festival invented by a small community at ease both with its identity and with the 21st century. It is still a challenge for the young to find homes, but there is a primary school and fine secondary college, swarms of schoolchildren, and indeed

Schools and hospitals are vital cells of a healthy national body

mid-life people with the energy to teach them on and off the water. Many English seaside villages see charities bring deprived urban children to sail and kayak, while poorer local kids never get afloat.

So what can help remote seafront places to thrive, absorb both delighted visitors and the retired but also stay alive, connected to 21st-century opportunities and attitudes? Apart from humane considerations, a community not cheapened by begging-bowl desperation for outsiders' money is also likely to have the strength to resist environmental and architectural vandalism (some of yesterday's most beloved and filmed seasides all across Europe are drowned and uglified now, inhabitants too financially weak to resist exploitation).

What makes for a real, vigorous modern seaside? Housing reform, for one thing: councils in the UK are at last beginning, albeit feebly, to prevent rental entrepreneurs dodging both council and business taxes. Moreover, irritable retirees and wealthy holiday-homers should not be too able to bar new dwellings on their fringes: there are sustainable, affordable designs interesting enough not to upset Mr Gove, if authority would just look beyond big, catchpenny developers. Meanwhile, better public transport and safely universal internet quality can reduce dependence on the private car, and so could reversing the loss of village schools and cottage hospitals, which are not wasteful frills but vital cells of a healthy national body.

As for the social cement of cultural richness, promoting invention in every sphere, it should be able to grow locally, creativity and performance enabled. Coastal communities don't need to be patronised like poor Lowestoft by Banksy's banal seagull to feed an arrogant elite art market. People who look out to sea have more to contribute than teashops and arcades.

Letters to the Editor

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Covid inquiry remit

Sir, Mark Dunn (letters, May 26) is right that disputes about disclosure will cause further delay to the Covid inquiry. However, the real problem is that the judicial procedures of the Inquiries Act 2005 do not suit this subject. I write having led the civil servants who worked on the act, which was drafted after consultation aimed at making inquiries more focused and effective. Thus, for example, it allows demands for documents "that relate to a matter in question at the inquiry". Previous 2005 act inquiries have related to specific events or issues that define the matter in question.

What has happened since 2020 is not a specific event or issue, but resembles a war — many decisions affecting all aspects of life had to be made quickly, using limited and changing information. Inevitably, some decisions might in retrospect have been made differently. Debate on this is for historians. Judicial debate will get bogged down in arguments which only the lawyers will win and the taxpayer lose.

An inquiry on everything is unlikely to reach useful conclusions.

Colin Myerscough
Cheam, Surrey

Importing gas

Sir, Juliet Samuel is right to say that the Treasury is strangling the North Sea with higher taxes (comment, May 25). However, she is wrong to belittle the importance of gas imports to the UK. Record imports of LNG last year of 25.6 billion cubic metres (up 74 per cent on 2021), met 35 per cent of total natural gas demand, which could not be provided by domestic energy production of any kind in the near future. The UK has excellent LNG terminals and therefore also provides a vital energy bridge to Europe for LNG from the US and elsewhere. It is quite possible that natural gas prices will rise again next winter, in which case we will get another reminder of the importance of natural gas to the UK's economic wellbeing and energy security.

Martin Houston
Vice-chairman, Tellurian Inc

Corrections and clarifications

- Vernon Kay is not a party in a court case over planning permission for a cabin near his home (news, May 26). We are happy to make this clear.
- We stated that an indicative from Lecram Holdings valued Purplebricks at £153 million, rather than £1.53 million (business, May 28). We apologise for the error.

ipso. Regulated

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Recruitment of teachers at home and abroad

Sir, The government's scheme to encourage teachers from abroad ("Extra £10k to woo more teachers from abroad", May 27) is understandable. However, it is targeting the wrong audience. There are thousands of UK-trained teachers working in British schools around the world, attracted by a sense of adventure or the lure of low-tax incomes to get a housing deposit, who wish to return home to the UK at the end of their sojourn overseas.

One of the things I have found remarkable is the difficulties and prejudice these colleagues encounter in gaining posts when they try to return. British international schools are some of the highest-performing schools in the world, subject to the same standards of inspection and rigour as UK schools.

The government should learn lessons from the Republic of Ireland. The Irish Department for Education and Skills recognises up to seven years' international experience on its pay scales for returning teachers. In practice, many of them time their return so as not to lose this benefit. The government's £10,000 might be better spent implementing a similar system for returning Britons

Mark Steed
Principal and CEO, Kellett School, The British International School in Hong Kong

Sir, For many years the focus of British aid has been to build partnerships with colleagues abroad to address the building of an effective teaching force — theirs not ours — and in so doing raise the quality of education, a goal the 2018 education policy published by the Department for International Development and the Foreign Office purports to support. During our colonial relationship with Africa much of the wealth of the UK came from the extraction of minerals and other resources. This latest policy to lure foreign teachers looks like we are now applying the same principle to human resources.

David Stephens
Emeritus professor of international education, University of Brighton

Sir, Britain is a relatively wealthy country. We should not be robbing poorer ones of their teachers. We should train our own and help countries that are struggling.

Dr Robert Leeming
Coventry

Sir, The government's plan is a temporary solution; it does not deal with the underlying problems of training talented young people and providing the right conditions to grow their pedagogic careers here. We have a shortage of teachers, especially in subjects such as mathematics, physics and modern languages. Many young teachers leave the profession within five years. Studies reveal that there are a number of factors that cause them to do so, including the cost of living, disillusionment with nurturing the next generation and poor leadership in some schools.
We need to deal with the deeper malaise to stem the outflow.

David Sassoon
London N3

Sir, Teachers are leaving in droves due to the immense workload, stress and constant scrutiny. I don't think teachers from abroad are any less likely to suffer from these things.

I have three friends who in recent years tried to become teachers via the Teach First scheme, all of whom were highly motivated and keen to help children. What they found were unhelpful mentors and unsupportive head teachers. All of them gave up halfway through training. Do teachers from abroad have any idea what they are letting themselves in for?

Rachel Watson
Teacher; Bearwood, W Midlands

Honours system

Sir, The lord speaker suggests reviewing the power of prime ministers to appoint peers once they've resigned ("Lords 'needs more experts and fewer silent voices'", May 27). I agree about ending resignation peerages on the grounds of accountability. But there's little incentive for a prime minister to change his/her approach to all appointments in the way the lord speaker calls for, when the House of Lords is increasingly defeating the government on its legislation. Since 2015 the government has lost more than 50 per cent of all divisions in every parliamentary session, and in two of those sessions it almost hit 70 per cent. There is no precedent for this assertive approach. There is much we could do to increase the effectiveness of an unelected House of Lords so that the public gets good quality laws which deliver what they vote for. But greater accountability to the public from the House of Lords will require peers, not just the prime minister, to change our ways.

Baroness Stowell of Beeston
Leader of the Lords, 2014-16

Sir, Lord McFall of Alcluith and your leading article (May 27) make some perceptive and constructive comments about the honours system in general and appointments to the Lords in particular. But I must take issue with you when you say that Liz Truss's resignation honours should be the last such list. It should not be allowed to happen at all. Less than 50 chaotic, unsuccessful days in No 10 should not allow her to nominate a single person for special recognition.

Lord Cormack
House of Lords

Sir, It is ironic that those receiving the British Empire Medal, the lowest tier in the honours system, are probably the most deserving. In the main these recipients are volunteers selflessly dedicating their time for the benefit of communities. This commitment is what honours should be about, not rewarding those who are just doing their job.

Jeremy Prescott
Southsea, Hants

Bishops and politics

Sir, AN Wilson caught the moment exquisitely by noting the hypocrisy of the Church of England and the absurdity of archbishops in the House of Lords ("It's time to kick the pulpit out of politics", May 27). We are now a secular country and thus religion, having wreaked destruction for millennia, should move to being a solely private matter, rather than interfering with public life.

Paul Bennett
Shrewsbury, Shropshire

Sir, I disagree with AN Wilson. Good policies are those which are inspired by love, are honest and share national resources on the basis of need not greed. Church leaders are more attuned to such policies than most of us. That is why we need them in the House of Lords. The Archbishop of Canterbury has exposed the falsity of the government's policy to send refugees to Rwanda, pointing out that it is both immoral and ineffective.

John Bond
Oxford

BRITISH VICTIMS OF BOLSHEVISM

FROM THE TIMES MAY 29, 1923

To the Editor of The Times
Sir, Since 1918, when most of the British subjects then domiciled in Russia were brought back to England by our Government, we have endeavoured to help them as far as the modest means at our disposal permitted. We have always hoped that the Soviet authorities would recognize the just claims of these people, who number about two thousand. They had lost everything they possessed, their properties and effects were either confiscated or stolen; they arrived in England with only the clothes they stood up in. They were mostly artisans, foremen, workmen, small traders, clerks, governesses, &c, who had made Russia their home; some among them had married Russian wives. One and all had, in the past, done much to uphold British prestige in Russia.

They are now nearly all penniless, some living on the rates, some in the workhouse. Many had suffered the horrors of a Bolshevist prison; a few, both men and women, have never recovered, and never will recover, from the privations they underwent. As our Government has now taken strong action with regard to the Russian Soviet Government, we write to say that these people, greatly as they have suffered, are all staunch supporters of our Government's recent action. The Labour Press is laying emphasis on the fact that in the reply of the Soviet Government to Lord Curzon's Note the claims made for Mr Davison's murder and Mrs Stan Harding's imprisonment are recognised. We fully agree in the justice of these claims, but we know of many others equally urgent, such as those of Mr Joseph Martin and Mr James Reid, both of whom have had their health ruined by ill-treatment in Bolshevist prisons, and none of these claims have been considered. We would therefore respectfully urge the Government, in the strongest terms possible, not to permit these claims to be pushed on one side as matters of no importance.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE W BUCHANAN, President,
CHARLES R HUNTER, Chairman,
M P O'DWYER,
General Council for the Assistance of the British Repatriated from Russia,
Westhorpe, Hendon, NW4. May 25.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

Dignity of difference

Sir, Sir Simon Schama is right ("Studying other cultures is not appropriation, insists Schama", May 27). It should be the duty of schools and universities to trumpet the truth unashamedly that we are all enriched by acquaintance with "the other", learning how those different from us respond to the same questions of life and art that have led humanity's development. Why should a Chinese orchestra not play Elgar, or northern hemisphere musicians not sing African music? Daniel Barenboim's West-Eastern Divan Orchestra and Yo-Yo Ma's Silkroad Ensemble have shown the way, recognising what the late chief rabbi Lord Sacks described as "the dignity of difference".

John Dunston
Oxford

Can we trust AI?

Sir, I see the claim that AI could produce, in a few seconds, more accurate weather forecasts than those produced by the Met Office (news, May 27). A friend sent me a piece about myself generated by ChatGPT, which is littered with pure inventions: 17 gross inaccuracies about my career, including that I died in 2016, when at 98 I am still alive. If AI can get things so egregiously wrong, how can we rely on any information it supplies?

Ralph Blumenau
London W11

Lost luggage

Sir, Imogen Thomas writes of Marmite confiscation at Gatwick (letter, May 27). My daughter asked that I make a dessert for her wedding in Norway that involved condensed milk, at the time unavailable there. It was confiscated by security staff at Tromso airport because I simply couldn't convince them of what it was.

Paul Dodd
Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire

Sir, I had a small tin of tuna confiscated from my luggage at Gatwick last week. I was told it was because of the liquid around the tuna. It's difficult to know how that could be a threat. It takes me about ten minutes to open these tins. I wonder if Gatwick staff are replenishing their larder.

Susan Porter
Burgess Hill, W Sussex

First impressions

Sir, Matthew Parris is right that you should never leap to judgment about people (Notebook, May 24). Some years ago, after a dip in one of the Hampstead ponds, I was standing, in a state of undress, in the men's changing area when a group of punks swaggered in. The most alarming — Mohican haircut, tattoos, piercings, leathers, chains — strode towards me. He stopped and asked, rather nervously: "Is it very cold in?"

John Goldsmith
London NW3

Fit for purpose

Sir, In our serviced offices a note in each lavatory cubicle read: "Do not leave in an unfit state" (letters, May 25 & 27). I never really worked out what exercises I was expected to undertake in such a confined area and for how long.

Brandon Smith Hilliard
Normanton-on-the-Wolds, Notts

Daily Universal Register

UK: Bank holiday; HM Revenue & Customs' civil servants strike until Friday; Beyoncé's concerts in London begin; League One play-off final: Sheffield Wednesday v Barnsley.

Nature notes



A hard thump on the window and then a ball of chittering feathers fell to the gravel, separated, and became two bedraggled robins, glaring at one another from a foot or so apart. Birds often look tired and worn out in the breeding season as the effort of feeding their perma-hungry brood takes it toll, but this balding pair had been locked in an on-off territorial dispute for some weeks. Robins must have a good PR strategist, for behind the cutesy Christmas card image lies a fierce fighter known to put rivals to the death. Males and females alike defend territories — not just in spring, but all year round. MELISSA HARRISON

Birthdays today



Prof Peter W Higgs, *pictured*, particle physicist, Nobel prizewinner (2013), 94; **Annette Bening**, actress, *American Beauty* (1999), *Being Julia* (2004), *The Kids Are All Right* (2010), 65; **Lord (Michael) Berkeley of Knighton**, composer and broadcaster, 75; **Mel B**, singer, Spice Girls (1994-2000), 48; **Torquhil Campbell, Duke of Argyll**, landowner, 55; **Nigel Casey**, diplomat, prime minister's special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, 54; **Dame Vivienne Cox**, chairwoman, Rosalind Franklin Institute (medical research centre), 64; **The Rt Rev Steven Croft**, Bishop of Oxford, 66; **Lord (Quentin) Davies of Stamford**, former MP (1987-2010) and minister, 79; **Noel Gallagher**, guitarist and singer, Oasis (1991-2009), *(What's the Story) Morning Glory?* (1995), 56; **James Horwill**, rugby union player, Harlequins (2015-19) and Australia (2007-16), 38; **Paul Johnston**, British ambassador to Ireland, 55; **Riley Keough**, actress, *Daisy Jones & The Six* (2023), 34; **Sir Alan Langlands**, vice-chancellor, University of Leeds (2013-20), 71; **Robert Largan**, Conservative MP for High Peak, assistant whip, 36; **Sir Julian Le Grand**, professor of social policy, London School of Economics, 78; **Pearl Mackie**, actress, best known for playing Doctor Who's companion (2016-17), 36; **Sarah Millican**, comedian, 48; **Nanette Newman**, actress, *The Stepford Wives* (1975), 89; **Martin Pipe**, racehorse trainer, 15 times champion trainer, 78; **Lord (David) Prentis of Leeds**, general secretary of trade union Unison (2001-21), 75; **Francis Rossi**, rock singer and guitarist, Status Quo, *In the Army Now* (1986), 74; **Irmin Schmidt**, musician, founding member of experimental German band Can, 86; **The Rt Rev Martin Seeley**, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, 69; **Carl-Henric Svanberg**, chairman, Volvo Group, BP (2010-18), 71; **Dame Barbara Woodward**, ambassador and permanent representative, UK mission to the UN New York, ambassador to China (2015-20), 62.

On this day

In **1961** Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, became the first member of the royal family to give a TV interview. He talked to Richard Dimbleby about Commonwealth Technical Training Week.

The last word

"Despair is the conclusion of fools." Benjamin Disraeli, British prime minster and author, from his novel *The Wondrous Tale of Alroy* (1833)

Trading Places

Economic rivalry between the US and China risks squeezing British business. Government should help growth sectors but avoid extensive and wasteful subsidies

Britain is a medium-sized economy that is highly open to trade but it is not a superpower. Sterling is not a reserve currency like the dollar or, to a lesser extent, the euro. These are commercial facts of life that are not within the power of any British government to alter. And Britain's economic prospects risk being squeezed by the burgeoning rivalry between the United States and China.

That is the conclusion of leaked government documents that The Times has seen. These argue that Britain does not have the capacity to adopt wholesale interventionist policies to boost domestic businesses, along the lines of current policy in the US and China, but that commerce should seek to reduce reliance on imports and policymakers should be prepared to invest billions of pounds in crucial sectors. These recommendations are broadly sensible, provided that the limits as well as the potential of such interventions are well understood. The fact that huge and more self-sufficient economies adopt certain policies does not in itself mean they are transferable or even sensible.

A concerted effort to dismantle global barriers to trade halted in the 1990s. That is a pity, as free trade across borders generally raises real incomes in both countries. In this century, however, trade liberalisation has taken place largely at the level of regions (such as the Pacific or the European Union) or in bilateral agreements. What is new is the aggressive embrace of tariffs and industrial subsidies, especially by successive US administrations. China likewise has pursued a policy of huge production and investment subsidies and (as is not available to the US) periodic manipulation of the exchange rate in order to boost exports.

As the leaked documents argue, Britain lacks the financial resources to do likewise. Nor should it try to emulate these policies. There is a role for industrial policy but it has to be discriminate. British governments of both parties in the 1970s notoriously aimed to "pick winners" and direct funds to favoured companies; they ended up lavishing taxpayers' money on doomed enterprises.

Modern industrial policy must show awareness that bureaucrats know less about future patterns of demand than competitive markets and the signals provided by the price mechanism. Where interventions can help is in providing tax breaks, rather than direct subsidies, to sectors where it can reasonably be judged that Britain has international expertise, especially in knowledge-intensive industries such as life sciences, including areas of biotechnology, graphic design, robotics and green technologies. It should be a source of strength, not a sign of attenuated ambition, to restrict industrial policy to this type of intervention, rather than adopt the sort of broad-based domestic subsidies being adopted by President Biden. China may now be an economic superpower but it has also wasted vast sums through subsidising inefficient industries: its attempt to construct a world-beating shipbuilding capability, for example, has faltered in the face of industry fragmentation, and there have been minimal spillover effects to the rest of the economy.

Both the Conservatives and Labour appear to see Brexit as an opportunity to adopt a more hands-on approach to supporting domestic industry. Again, to the extent that growth sectors can be incentivised, that will be to the good. But the rapid economic growth of China ultimately demonstrates not that industrial policy can work miracles but that boosting productivity is the key to higher living standards. That will require governments to work with, not override, the private sector and competitive markets, and to welcome the efficiency gains from foreign direct investment. Economic policy is always at the mercy of geopolitics, but the known principles of wealth creation have not been overturned by the competitive race between the US and China.

Media Model

The BBC should be funded by advertising and subscription rather than a poll tax

When the BBC (then known as the British Broadcasting Company) was formed in 1922, it was an avowedly commercial enterprise. It was funded by public subscription and offered an annual dividend of 7.5 per cent. Only with its supersession and reincorporation as the British Broadcasting Corporation five years later did it become, in effect, a nationalised industry under royal charter.

The BBC's decision, revealed last week, to expand its digital service in the United States to be paid for through advertising, and possibly some subscription elements, is hence in keeping with its traditions. The oddity is that proposing the same model for its operations in the UK should be regarded by the corporation as taboo. It would in truth be an equitable and rational way of securing the BBC's future while catering to the demands of new audiences a century since it was founded.

The BBC plans to combine news, audio and video for the US market and relaunch the service in the autumn. It hopes to expand the audience for the corporation's site from its 50 million weekly visitors at present, and thereby help to fulfil the ambition stated by Tim Davie, the director-general, to surpass the £1.6 billion generated in sales by the BBC's commercial division last year.

It is a standard commercial objective to provide audiences with a service they want and generate profits on it. And it should be applied across all the BBC's markets, rather than just beyond Britain. When the licence fee was introduced in 1946, the BBC was a broadcasting monopoly. In the digital age, it competes directly not only with commercial terrestrial channels and news outlets (including The Times) that increasingly provide content digitally rather than in print, but streaming subscription services.

There is no plausible justification for the state to favour one provider over others by means of a compulsory levy. The existing royal charter will end in 2027 and the licence fee, currently a matter for negotiation, should not persist beyond that date. Scrapping the licence fee rather than merely overhauling it is far from the cultural vandalism that the corporation's vested interests allege.

The plain fact is that young people do not consume the BBC's output in the way that earlier generations did and do. According to a report last year from the broadcasting regulator Ofcom, people aged between 16 and 24 watch television on average for less than an hour a day, compared with almost six hours for those aged 65 and over. Younger audiences typically head straight for a streaming service when wanting to watch programmes. Despite not wishing to watch the BBC's programming, they must pay for it anyway. It should be a matter of concern for policymakers that the licence fee thus exemplifies intergenerational inequality.

There is no reason why a subscription or advertising-based service should threaten or diminish the BBC's output. That, after all, is what the corporation is ineluctably accepting for its overseas markets. And there is plenty of big-budget and sophisticated programming on commercial services.

By virtue of its history and longevity, the BBC owns a huge film archive; it would be a real public service if it sought to deploy that asset still more extensively to make money and invest it in new programmes. Instead of engaging in lobbying till the end of the charter, the BBC should be planning now for a new funding model, and competing on those terms.

Grand Inquisitor

Jeremy Paxman's broadcasting career has brought entertainment and wisdom

In Verdi's opera *Don Carlo*, the Grand Inquisitor strikes terror into the heart of even so exalted a figure as King Philip II of Spain. It is widely assumed that, in 29 years as question-master of *University Challenge*, Jeremy Paxman has had a similar effect on competitors opening themselves to potential derision for flubbing an answer. Paxman's last appearance on the quiz show will be the final of the current series, broadcast on BBC2 this evening. It bears stressing that his fearsome reputation is belied by his personal generosity.

As a political interviewer, Paxman has been merciless in detecting evasions. He famously asked the same question 14 times of Lord Howard of Lympne, the home secretary at the time, about a long-forgotten controversy on penal policy.

Yet as an interrogator of nervous students, Paxman conveys encouragement as well as fair-mindedness. "He has to appear formidable but he really does try to make teams feel comfortable," says one former semi-finalist whom we interview today. Other contestants gained the same impression.

To a lagging team, even one ignominiously scoring in negative territory owing to a valiantly incorrect guess, Paxman has typically pointed out that only another two or three correct answers will allow them to draw level. He is also unfailingly generous to contestants who show unexpected wellsprings of knowledge, such as the team who volunteered the correct answer concerning the technical linguistic term for a word or expression that appears just once in a text (*hapax legomenon*, as our readers will surely know already).

Paxman has been slowed by the onset of Parkinson's disease, about which he is bravely candid. His departure from broadcasting caps a career that has brought entertainment and enlightenment in equal measure. A long and happy retirement is eminently his due, and we wish it to him.

World

This is the century for Turkey,

Fears of vote rigging have not stopped the divisive president from revelling in his victory, **Hannah Lucinda Smith** reports from Istanbul



President Erdogan has claimed victory in Turkey's presidential election run-off, securing another term that means he will serve a quarter of a century in power.

He took 52.08 per cent of the vote, defeating Kemal Kilicdaroglu, a secularist who stood as the candidate for a broad coalition of parties and conceded defeat at midnight.

Speaking in the Istanbul district of Uskudar three hours after the polls had closed, Erdogan claimed to have achieved "a victory where nobody is left behind", but went on to lash out at LGBT people. He accused the opposition of promoting gay rights, a siren call to his ultra-conservative religious base.

"In our culture, family is sacred. No one can interfere. We will strangle anyone who dares to touch it," he said. His victory had opened the door to the "century for Turkey", he added.

Erdogan then travelled to Ankara. Eschewing his traditional speech from the balcony of his party headquarters, he spoke to thousands of his supporters gathered at the presidential palace.

"We did not win; Turkey won. Democracy won. Nobody has lost," he said. 'The only ones who lost are the terrorists who want to harm our country.'

As Erdogan's victory became clear, a car with blacked-out windows eased through flag-waving crowd at the AK Party headquarters in Istanbul. A passenger window rolled down to reveal Suleyman Soylu, the ultra-nationalist interior minister who, in the past, has made little secret of his own ambitions.

"Are you happy with the result?" I shouted to him. "Yes, of course," he replied, smiling. "Do you want to be president?" He pretended not to hear.

Last night belonged to Erdogan, 69, who has dominated Turkey's 21st century and who, many claim, cannot be replaced. "There is no other leader," said one woman who had brought her small children to the celebrations.

The crowd booed at each mention of Kilicdaroglu's name. As AK Party anthems blared from huge speakers and car stereos, occasional chants of *Allahu akbar* — God is greatest — broke out.

President Putin was quick to congratulate the man who has collaborated closely with Russia on international matters, despite some disagreements. "Your victory is the logical result of your dedicated work as head of the Turkish Republic, a clear evidence of the people's support for your efforts to strengthen sovereignty and pursue an independent foreign policy," Putin said.

This was the first time Erdogan had been forced to a run-off, but few Turks believed that he could be beaten.

For the near half of the country that voted for Kilicdaroglu, however, the outcome represents a death blow to their democracy. Elections are the last check and balance left in Erdogan's Turkey. Yet trust in the electoral process has plummeted in recent years and rival broadcasting of the results, huge crowds of observers at polling stations and repeated legal challenges have become the norm. In recent years Erdogan has stuffed the higher electoral board with loyalists and leant on it to bend the rules and overturn results.

As the first-round votes were counted on May 14, the opposition accused the AK Party of using objections to block results from polling stations where Kilicdaroglu, 74, had a majority, while Anadolu, the state broadcaster, showed Erdogan storming into the lead. Days later voters began using an online system set up by the main opposition party to check the "wet signature" certificates of polling station tallies against the official numbers. Thousands of discrepancies emerged.

'We don't trust the electoral system because it is now controlled by the AK. They will steal votes, maybe as much as 10 per cent,' said Deniz Altintas, 46, who was casting his vote in Kadikoy, a neighbourhood that voted 80.6 per cent in favour of Kilicdaroglu in the first round. Altintas said he would go to the local branch of the higher electoral board as counting began, to keep check on the officials verifying the results.

Erdogan and his parliamentary coalition defied the polls and took a far larger share of the May 14 vote than most had expected. In particular, the unexpectedly high share taken by the hard-nationalist MHP in Kurdish-majority regions heightened suspicions about election security. "The votes will be secure in the big cities but not in the rural areas," said Ayse Balanli, 76, a professor who was also voting in Kadikoy.

More than 200,000 volunteer monitors signed up to observe the vote. Soylu had repeatedly threatened to block Votes and Beyond, the biggest civil society monitor, from polling stations. He has accused it of terrorism and taking overseas funding, and claimed it had "worked to stop people voting . . . their job is confusion and chaos".

As the election got under way, social media was flooded with reports of fraudulent votes. Fights broke out at some polling stations as unofficial observers were ejected or attacked.

The campaign was also marred by disinformation on both sides, which escalated in the fortnight before the run-off. Kilicdaroglu swivelled to a hardline, anti-migrant stance to woo nationalist votes, claiming that Turkey was hosting ten million refugees (official numbers are about five million). Erdogan's campaign team made fake versions of Kilicdaroglu's election posters, making it appear that he was pledging to support terrorism.

The final results have not yet been verified by the electoral board but any objections raised are unlikely to change the outcome. Most opposition voters had already prepared for the inevitable.

"This election will not be fair. Erdogan has been preparing for this for 20 years," said Hurcan Aygor, 63, a retired teacher, as she cast her vote. "I don't expect anything to change until he dies."



Analysis

President Erdogan is celebrating another victory, but the real winner of this election is a xenophobic and often conspiratorial brand of nationalism that has set a new political paradigm (Hannah Lucinda Smith writes).

Both Erdogan and Kemal Kilicdaroglu sought the support of fringe hardline nationalists whose manifestos centre on kicking out refugees.

The rhetoric is a vote-winner: hate against refugees, in particular the Syrians, who number about 3.6 million, has risen inexorably. Eleven years ago many Turks were proud to host the first refugees who fled President Assad's bombs. By 2014 the Syrian numbers had swelled to hundreds of thousands, and their communities were becoming visible in Turkish cities along the border as well as parts of Istanbul.

Erdogan welcomed them as Sunni brothers. Kilicdaroglu's Republican People's Party campaigned on an anti-refugee ticket in local elections that year.

As more Syrians arrived and Turkey became the world's biggest host of refugees, Erdogan's government took a laissez-faire approach. Syrians could receive free healthcare and education but there was no compulsion or state help to learn Turkish. They are largely denied work permits, so many — including children — work for illegally low wages in clothing factories, keeping Turkey's garment exports competitively cheap. Others find informal day work in construction, in restaurants and on farms.

It is by coincidence the Turkish economy began to decline as the Syrian refugees began arriving. The number of Turks saying they do not want Syrians in their country has risen as their living standards have dropped.

Turkey's economic crisis has escalated since 2018, and political rhetoric against refugees has risen in tandem. Erdogan has swivelled to the opposition's position on Syrians, either pledging that they will return or threatening to open his borders and send them to Europe. Turkey has grown less hospitable, stopping residence permits and regularly rounding up and deporting paperless Syrians and others.

A recent survey showed that the economy was the overwhelming concern for Turks; only 2.2 per cent said that refugees were their biggest worry. But the two can be easily conflated — and are.

For refugees, Turkish politics has long looked like a lose-lose. For them and for Europe, the question now is whether Erdogan follows through on his pledges.



Poor acorn crop drives Spanish pig breeders nuts
Page 31



Return to Iraq for friar who fled under an Isis death threat
Page 32

Erdogan declares

MURAT CETINMUHURDAR, OMER URER/ANADOLU AGENCY/GETTY IMAGES, KEMAL ASLAN/REUTERS





President Erdogan's claims of victory over over Kemal Kilicdaroglu, left, were met with jubiliation from fanatical supporters in Istanbul, and he seized the moment to denounce gay rights activists in the country. Right: one young couple took time to stop off at a polling station in Duzce, northwestern Turkey, on the way to their wedding



Second time lucky? How the vote was split

Erdogan
52.1% (49.5%*)

Kilicdaroglu
47.9% (45%*)

*First-round results

Results on 99.7% of votes counted
Source: Anadolu Agency

Conservatives force Spanish PM into retreat

Spain
Isambard Wilkinson Madrid

The Socialist Party of Pedro Sánchez, the Spanish prime minister, suffered humiliating defeats in regional and local elections yesterday as voters punished his alliances with far-left and separatist parties.

The main conservative opposition Popular Party made big gains across the country, winning an absolute majority in Madrid and was set to inflict defeats on the Socialists in several key regions. It was poised to win enough votes to unseat the Socialists, which governs the country in a coalition with the far-left Podemos party, in the bellwether region of Valencia, as well as Aragon, the Balearic Islands and Rioja, with 60 per cent of the vote counted.

The PP will need to govern several of its newly acquired regions in coalition with the hard-right Vox party, a likely precursor to a possible national right-wing coalition government after the next general election. With 90 per cent of the vote counted in the municipal elections the PP had won almost 600,000 votes more than the Socialists.

Voters punished Pedro Sánchez for his alliances with hard-left parties



The elections, which took place in municipalities across Spain and in 12 of its regions, were seen as an indicator of who will win the national poll in December. Sánchez and Alberto Feijóo, the PP leader, played prominent roles in a polarised campaign. Feijóo urged people "to vote massively", saying: "The stronger the government, the stronger our democracy will be and the faster we will get out of the economic, institutional and social problems we have."

During the campaign Sánchez emphasised his economic policies such as labour and pension reforms and a rise in the minimum wage. "Most of our citizens will vote positively . . . for what is important: for public healthcare, public education and housing policies for our young," he said as he cast his vote.

Election polls and experts predicted many close results, with few clear majorities. The campaign was marred by attempted postal vote fraud in several small municipalities and Melilla, one of Spain's two north African cities. Police made 30 arrests. The fraud claims largely implicated Socialist councillors.

A resounding victory in Madrid will bolster the national standing of Isabel Díaz Ayuso, the regional PP leader. Her popularity rocketed when she thwarted the central government's pandemic lockdown, opening businesses with a slogan of "communism or freedom".

Ayuso's supporters were out in strength on the streets of Madrid. "I'm going to vote for Ayuso for what she did during the lockdown," Alberto, 49, an unemployed computer programmer, said. "But at the city level I voted for Vox to act as a pressure point on the conservative government. I will vote for them in the national election too."

The Socialists regained second place in the Madrid region, which has been governed by the PP since 1995. But María González, 64, an economist, who voted for the Socialists during the era of Felipe González, the prime minister in 1982-96, said she had switched to the conservatives. "The Socialist Party used to be more moderate and believed in working with the other main party but Sánchez is a populist," she said. "I don't like his allies. They are despicable."

The PP also took Valencia city and the Socialist stronghold of Seville, the capital of Andalusia, a region long-held by the left but which the conservatives won with an absolute majority last year.

Analysis

Spain has some of Europe's lowest inflation and energy prices. The Socialist-led government has also ostensibly reduced unemployment. Peace reigns in Catalonia, with separatists at bay (Isambard Wilkinson writes).

Why, therefore, has the main conservative opposition Popular Party made sweeping gains all over Spain, with the Socialists in retreat and barely hanging on in traditional strongholds?

The answer to some degree is the unpopularity of Pedro Sánchez and his style of leadership, in particular his alliances with the far left and Basque and Catalan separatists.

The policy of Alberto Feijóo, the Popular Party leader, of making the elections a referendum on *sanchismo* has paid off. He has weakened Sánchez's standing by focusing on his image as a cold-blooded political "killer" who lacks the common touch.

But it is Sánchez's alliances that have caused him most damage. He would argue that he needed to make arrangements considered unsavoury by many Spaniards to give the country a stable government in 2019 after it had had four elections in as many years. Before coming to power, he had said that governing with the far-left Podemos party would give him sleepless nights.

Sánchez's allies argue that his policies reflect democratic norms in "plurinational Spain". However, such policies are viewed by his critics as only serving his immediate electoral interests. Feijóo said before yesterday's elections: "It is only by voting that we can start to turn the page on *sanchismo*".

That may have just happened.

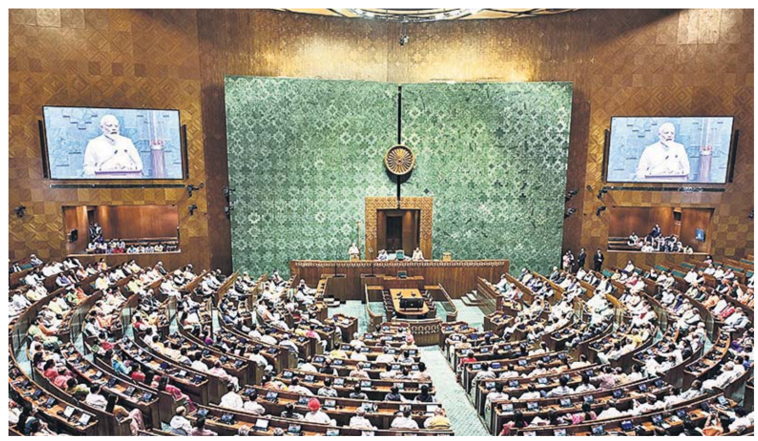
Modi opens his £2bn ‘wedding cake’

India
Amrit Dhillon Delhi

PIB/AFP/GETTY IMAGES, AP







Narendra Modi holds the Sengol, symbolising righteousness; the parliament building, bottom left, has been likened to a triangular wedding cake; the ceremony was boycotted by many politicians, angered by Modi’s starring role

Narendra Modi has inaugurated India’s new parliament, intended as a symbol of a country shorn of all vestiges of colonial rule, amid a political row that resulted in 20 opposition parties boycotting the ceremony.

The prime minister arrived at the triangular-shaped complex early yesterday to attend Hindu religious rituals and multi-faith prayers. He prostrated himself in front of a sceptre, believed in ancient India to symbolise fair and just kingly rule, and carried it towards the Speaker’s chair, where it was ceremonially installed.

Modi and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party hope that the parliament will herald a new era of Indian pride. They believed it was inappropriate that, 76 years after independence from the British Raj, India’s “temple of democracy” continued to be the building created by its former colonial masters.

“May this iconic building be a cradle of empowerment, igniting dreams and nurturing them into reality. May it propel our great nation to new heights of progress,” Modi wrote in a tweet.

The new four-storey, red sandstone parliament was commissioned by the prime minister to create a larger and better-equipped space for MPs.

However, the ceremony was boycotted by many politicians, angered by Modi’s decision to place himself at the centre of proceedings when protocol says the honour lies with the country’s president. They saw it as a vain and self-aggrandising move by a deeply polarising figure.

“This undignified act insults the high office of the president [Droupadi Murmu, the country’s first tribal woman in the post] and violates the letter and spirit of the constitution,” said the parties in a joint statement.

Jairam Ramesh, Congress Party spokesman, said “one man’s ego and desire for self-promotion” had denied the president her constitutional privilege.

“Parliament is not just a new building … it is an establishment with traditions, precedents, and rules. It is the foundation of democracy,” said Derek O’Brien, a Trinamool Congress MP. “PM Modi doesn’t get that. For him, the inauguration is all about I, me, myself.”

In the statement, the parties also referred to Modi as the wrong person to lead the inauguration given that they hold him responsible for claiming the “soul of democracy has been sucked out from parliament”.

The parliament is part of a much bigger building project — the Central Vista — aimed at leaving Modi’s imprint on the capital for posterity. A cluster of colonial-era buildings that form the seat of government are being replaced with buildings intended to symbolise Modi’s “New India”.

From the start, the opposition has called the scheme a “vanity project”, opposing it on several grounds including its design — which some say resembles a triangular wedding cake — the inclusion of an opulent mansion for Modi, and its cost of more than £2 billion.

Doraisamy Raja, the Communist Party leader, ridiculed Modi’s desire to take centre stage Sunday as yet another example of his ego.

“An obsession with self-image and cameras trumps decency and norms when it comes to Modi,” he wrote in a tweet.

Russian drones gatecrash Kyiv Day

Ukraine
Maxim Tucker Kyiv

SERGEI SUPINSKY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Ukrainian air defences shot down dozens of drones during the five-hour attack

The Kremlin launched its largest swarm of drones yet against Kyiv yesterday as residents celebrated the 1,541st anniversary of the city’s foundation.

Of 54 Iranian-made Shahed drones launched against Ukraine overnight, 40 targeted the capital but were shot down by its defences, the country’s air force said. At least one man was killed and a woman wounded by debris.

Air raid sirens first sounded at 1am and the attack by successive waves of drones lasted more than five hours. Explosions and automatic weapons fire echoed around the city as multiple anti-aircraft systems engaged the drones.

It was the latest in a series of bombardments ordered by President Putin to terrorise the capital this month, with previous assaults including hypersonic, cruise and ballistic missiles.

“The enemy decided to ‘congratulate’ Kyivans on Kyiv Day with the help of their deadly UAVs [unmanned aerial vehicles],” Serhiy Popko, the head of the city’s military administration, said.

Improved air defences stiffened with US Patriot missiles and German Gepard systems have been able to deal with the intensifying attacks, in contrast to the start of the Russian bombardment in October when the city was often left without power or water.

Across the country, all but two drones launched were shot down, according to Mykola Oleshchuk of Ukraine’s air force. “Only fragments remain of the ‘gifts’ from the occupiers on Kyiv Day,” he added.

Finally, Biden’s borrowing deal nears finishing line

United States
David Charter
Alistair Dawber Washington

Congress is expected to approve a two-year deal struck between President Biden and Republican leaders to cut costs and raise borrowing, heading off a catastrophic default.

Spending on tax enforcement will be slashed by almost $2 billion — a key Republican demand — and unused Covid-19 relief funds will be reassigned.

Central to the deal is keeping spending flat for 2024 and increasing it by only 1 per cent for 2025, in exchange for raising the debt limit for two years, pushing the issue beyond the election.

The White House and Kevin McCarthy, the Speaker, must still convince their members to back the deal, with several hardline Republicans signalling disapproval. Left-wing Democrats were also wary, after reports that work requirements would be toughened for recipients of food stamps.

“The agreement represents a compromise, which means not everyone gets what they want,” Biden said. “That’s the responsibility of governing.”

McCarthy insisted that “95 per cent” of his 222 House members were positive about the agreement in principle. “I think people will look back and say, well, I didn’t get exactly what I wanted,” he said. “But it shouldn’t be about you. It should be about America.”

On Friday the credit rating agency Fitch said it had placed US debt on “negative watch”, indicating that a downgrade of the country’s creditworthiness was being considered.

And coming up next on the sofa, it's the Pope

Italy
James Imam Milan

The Pope appeared to have recovered sufficiently from a fever to deliver Mass at Saint Peter's Basilica yesterday, a day after becoming the first leader of the Catholic Church to be interviewed at a television studio.

He was forced to cancel meetings after falling ill on Friday, the latest in a string of health scares, but looked alert, if frail, as he presided over a service from a wheelchair yesterday. "Let us continue to pray, to commit ourselves to peace without getting tired," Francis, 86, said, his voice hoarse.

Barely 24 hours earlier he was seen stepping out of a white Fiat 500 at the Rome headquarters of the public broadcaster Rai. Employees gathered outside shouted "long live the Pope" as he smiled and waved.

Francis was there to record a surprise interview for a chat show, *In His Image*, dedicated to Catholic themes. Speaking to the show's host, Lorena Bianchetti, he appealed for world peace and discussed a range of "contemporary themes", Rai said.

The appearance marks the first time a pope has entered a TV studio for an in-person interview. It will be aired on June 4.

Pope John Paul II broke new ground in 1998 with an interview with the veteran host Bruno Vespa on the Rai's flagship chat show, *Porta a Porta*, but that was recorded at the Vatican. During Italy's strict lockdown in 2020 Francis addressed the nation via Rai's TG1 news channel with a video message filmed in his private apartments.

On Thursday he discussed his health in an interview recorded at the Vatican for the American Spanish-language channel Telemundo. "I can walk now," he told the interviewer. "My knee has been mending."

Francis, praised for modernising the Vatican's communication style, has attracted a sizable following on social media platforms such as Twitter and Instagram and briefly appointed Lord Patten of Barnes, the former BBC Trust chairman, to advise him on media strategy.

LUIGI COSTANTINI/AP



See Venice and dye The city's police are investigating a lurid green slick that appeared near the Rialto Bridge on Sunday

Putin woos church with gift of icon

Russia
Tom Parfitt

A priceless and fragile medieval icon will be confiscated from a museum and given to the Russian Orthodox Church on the orders of President Putin, despite warnings that it could disintegrate because of the move.

Putin's transfer of *The Trinity*, a 15th-century icon by Andrey Rublev, has been interpreted as a way of maintaining the support of its leader, Patriarch Kirill, for the invasion of Ukraine.

The icon, in gold, green and blue tempera on wood, depicts the angels who visited Abraham at the Oak of Mamre.

Despite criticism from art experts, Russian officials decided on Friday that the icon would be taken from the State Tretyakov Gallery and put on display at Christ the Saviour, the main cathedral in Moscow, from next Sunday.

Elena Pronicheva, the director of the Tretyakov, had opposed the icon's removal after a restoration commission said this month that it should not travel. The icon was damaged last summer when it was controversially sent for three days to Trinity Lavra of St Sergius, the spiritual centre of the Orthodox Church, near Moscow.

That journey led to 61 new defects on the icon's painted surface, five of which needed "urgent restoration strengthening".

Moving the masterpiece had upset the temperature and humidity needed to preserve it, the commission said. Pronicheva said "the icon should in the short term be in a state of rest" while restorers decided how to deal with it.

One expert said moving it now it was under restoration would be like "taking it from its hospital bed".

No rain in Spain is pain for gourmet ham-makers

Spain
Simon Hunter Madrid

Iberian ham, thinly sliced and from acorn-fed animals, is the undisputed jewel in Spain's culinary crown, but food experts say climate change and a cruel drought are putting production of this gourmet product at risk.

A total of 598,054 pigs were slaughtered this season, a fall of 12.6 per cent from the previous year, Raúl García, president of the Asici association of Iberian pig farmers, told the El Español website.

The weather plays a key role in the life of the pigs that make the finest *bellota* ("acorn") hams. The most important stage of this process is known as the *montanera*, the last months of a pig's life, when it can be fattened from 90kg to 160kg thanks to a daily diet of up to 12kg of acorns, 5kg of grass and other plants, and 50 litres of water a day.

For the ideal conditions in the Dehesa region, rain is needed in the spring so that the oak trees produce acorns, and then more rain must fall in October so that the grass grows. The pigs are in the Dehesa from October until they are slaughtered, usually around March.

Last year, however, was a catastrophic one for Spain in terms of weather. The Aemet state weather service reported that it was the hottest year in a century and the third driest in recent decades, and conditions have not yet improved in 2023.

"If the situation continues like this, *bellota* will be an ever more scarce product," Curro Romero, communications director at Enrique Tomás, a ham producer, said.



Weather is vital to the pigs' growth

Markets tempt punters back to towns

France
Adam Sage Paris

Standing behind an array of cheese at his stall in a Parisian market, Christophe Chambas was in an upbeat mood.

"We're not doing so badly," said Chambas, 53, who has been selling cheese for 20 years. "People haven't stopped coming to the market, despite the economic crisis. If anything we are even seeing more young people now."

That tendency was confirmed by Monique Rubin, chairwoman of the National Federation of Markets of France. Street markets are enjoying something of a revival, she said: France now has more than 11,500 markets, up from 9,000 in 2019.

Rubin, who sells hats from stalls in Nyons, Provence and in Aubenas in the Ardèche département, says the increase is being driven by the mayors of small towns and villages, who see the creation of a weekly market as a way to bring back shoppers lured away by out-of-town supermarkets.

In the centre of small and medium-sized towns an average of 12 per cent of retail premises are now empty, compared with 8 per cent a decade ago, according to a government survey. In Tonnerre, Burgundy, the shoe shop, florist, bakery, cobbler and estate agency have all closed in recent years, resulting in a rate nearer 40 per cent. The town centre is dispiritingly quiet, although it still has a twice-weekly market.

"Very often the market is the only thing that brings life to these towns," Rubin said. "Without them, many would be abandoned and lawless.

"There are people who never speak to anyone else all week except when they go to the market. I think mayors are realising that if they want to bring people together, they need one."

Angoisse, a village in the Dordogne, started holding a market on Wednesdays in the central square this year. Yoann Beaurain, who has a stall there selling Italian food, told French TV: "These villages are being deserted by shops but people come to the market, and that keeps the village going."



There are now more street markets in France than before the pandemic

Rubin said traditional French markets had gone into a decline with the arrival of supermarket chains in the 1960s. "They really had a big impact. We were told that supermarkets were exceptional, that you could buy everything you wanted there and that they would be like an outdoor market, except with a roof and lighting."

Provincial mayors all wanted one and "we were encouraged to over-consume," said Rubin. "But in recent years, the view has changed. More consumers want to eat local produce and to come to a market where they can talk to other people and be advised on what to buy."

Food stall holders seem to be doing better than those selling clothes or trinkets. A survey by Le Monde newspaper 18 months ago found that the sale of food in French markets had risen by 32 per cent between 2015 and 2021. Food sales now represent half of all the revenue generated by markets.

"People need to eat," said a stallholder selling free-range eggs at Saint-Charles market in Paris. "The [inflation] crisis has not really affected me at all, but I think it's more difficult for some of the stalls selling clothes."

Chambas, whose cheese stall was on the other side of the road, agreed. "Maybe people are a bit more careful now because of inflation — they might buy two cheeses instead of three but they still come to the market," he said.

"It's like pubs in England. It's where people go to talk and to meet. It's a way of life in France," he added, before breaking off to advise a customer to buy his "excellent" Saint-Nectaire.

"I don't look at the prices," said Gérard, 67, a pensioner who returned to Paris six months ago after working for 30 years in the US. "I come here because it's colourful and fun. My wife says you get better produce here too. I don't know if that is true but I don't argue with her."

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

Life is never simple for the friar who fled Mosul under Islamic State — although now his big worry is dodgy plumbing, not death threats

Richard Spencer

IRAQ





The belltower is tolling the noon Angelus in the Church of Our Lady of the Hour in Mosul. The chimes bring solace to Father Olivier Poquillon, the Dominican friar overseeing the church's restoration after the depredations of Islamic State rule. Nevertheless, he sounds stressed.

People phone him about an impossible number of meetings with officials. A builder comes in with a query about a lavatory that seems to have got the loo, the sink and the door the wrong way round. A Unesco representative arrives to discuss where to store some historic stone carvings.

I am not a Catholic, still less a monk, but my understanding is that Dominicans are meant to balance the contemplative life with a worldly mission. Father Olivier seems to have landed firmly on the latter end of the seesaw. Life amid the ruins of Mosul is no picnic.

Olivier worked in Mosul before, until beheading calls became too frequent. Since then he has been a military chaplain, prior of a convent and part of the Brussels blob: his formal title was general secretary of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the EU, which frankly sounds more gruelling than facing down jihadists.

Now he is back in Mosul harrying workmen about the quality of their grouting and dealing with irritants like the Pope, who insisted on coming to hold Mass a couple of years back, which required a fair amount of logistics and attention to security details.

His white robes and workman's hard hat are both at odds with his bespectacled face, whose self-deprecating smile you might fit more easily to a Parisian human rights lawyer — then I discover he is that too, which is a useful qualification here.

I came to the church to ask him about the bells but left wondering about life choices, the extreme results of a simple vocation.

When Isis's calculating warriors arrived in 2014 with fiery words of damnation and an eye for the main chance they took the original bells, a gift from Napoleon III's empress, and sold them to be melted down.

The church was desecrated almost beyond recognition, its convent used to house Yazidi captives, its nave to torture and hang prisoners. An attempt to blow up the clock tower failed: it was left holed but still standing — unlike the crooked minaret of the Great Mosque, now a stump under scaffolding. The two towers stood as religious counterpoints on either side of the city centre, the bells speaking to the muezzin, a symbol of wished-for religious harmony.

A huge amount of money and effort is going into restoring Mosul's historic buildings, much of it from France and the United Arab Emirates. Paris sees itself as having a special role here, dating back to the 19th century, though the British were once the colonial power here. France was supposed to get Mosul when the Ottoman empire was divided up but the British wangled it away, seeing the value of the nearby oilfields.

Father Olivier told me he had at one stage questioned the point of rebuilding the church. West Mosul was a wasteland for years after Isis's defeat, and now only 50 Christian families are there. Even now, mine-clearance teams find bodies.

But pillars of hope give Moslawis something to live for, and the Pope sent him anyway.

After finishing my tour, I join him for lunch with some French visitors at a cultural centre, where I meet Anas, 16, who shows us around in immaculate American English.

I assume he must have spent the Isis years abroad, but he sets me straight. He passed the time hiding in his bedroom, teaching himself English from YouTube videos. Now that's life choices for you.

RICHARD SPENCER



Father Olivier Poquillon believes that rebuilding the church will bring hope to Mosul's residents

Little North Koreans seek height boost in a bottle

North Korea

Richard Lloyd Parry Asia Editor

North Koreans are turning to growth hormones and herbal treatments to increase their height in a country where food shortages have stunted a good percentage of the population.

Photographs from North Korea obtained by the website NK News show advertisements outside pharmacies for a variety of treatments that promise to make people taller.

One in Pyongyang offers a "brain cartilage peptide height growth injection", which is said to be "especially good for growing taller".

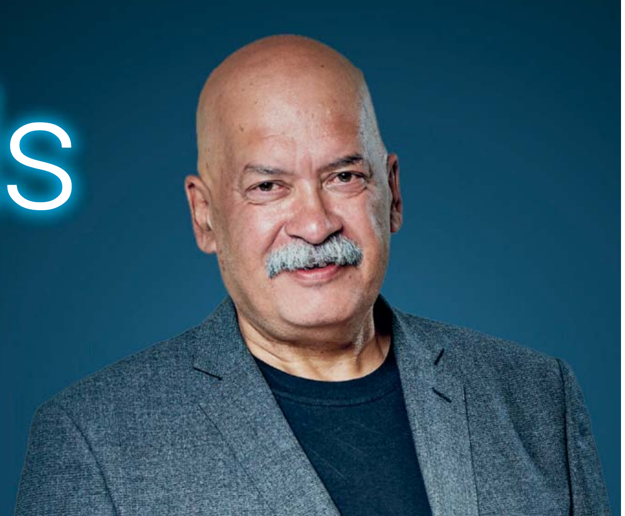
Another offers two kinds of "liquid medicine for child height growth" for the equivalent of 80p and £1.60 a bottle — a large sum in a country where the average income is about £80 a month. More affordable, at 3p each, are "height growth pills" made from plants such as aloe and arrowroot and, for women, from pearl oyster shells.

The food supply in North Korea is better than in the 1990s, when several million people died during a famine. Research carried out by South Korean academics on North Korean defectors and refugee children found that seven out of ten of the survivors of the famine had suffered stunted growth, while one in four were underweight.

Kim Jong-il, the late father of the supreme leader, Kim Jong-un, was sensitive about his 5ft 3in stature and was said to wear built-up shoes to make him taller. During his time in power, slogans were posted in schools and gymnasiums reading: "Try to grow taller." Children are also encouraged to play basketball, which is said to aid growth.



Kim Jong-il wore built-up shoes



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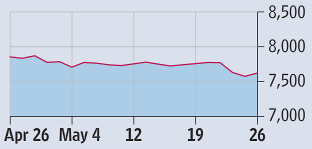
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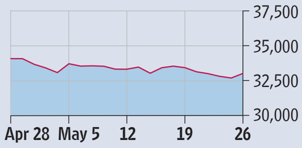
Business

WORLD MARKETS (Friday's close. Change on the week)

FTSE 100
7,627.20 (-129.67) ▼

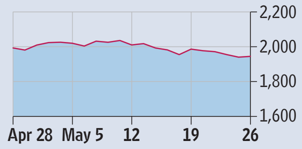


Dow Jones
33,093.34 (-333.29) ▼

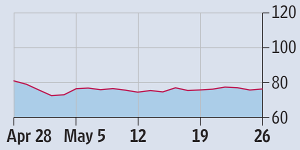


COMMODITIES

Gold
$1945.70 (-30.33) ▼

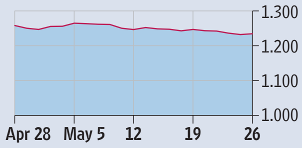


Brent crude (6pm)
$76.66 (+0.93) ▲

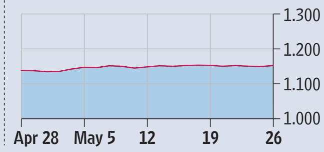


CURRENCIES

£/$
$1.2340 (-0.0125) ▼



£/€
€1.1518 (-0.0005) ▼



Turn pensions lifeboat into £400bn superfund, says Blair think tank

Ben Martin Banking Editor

The government-backed pensions lifeboat should be overhauled to create a £400 billion "superfund" that could help to solve the problem of waning domestic investment in the UK, Sir Tony Blair's think tank has proposed.

A report from the former prime minister's institute has recommended that the Pension Protection Fund, which is only used to rescue the defined benefit (DB) retirement plans of failed companies, allow the corporate sponsors of the 4,500 smallest DB schemes to voluntarily transfer into the lifeboat, without the need for their employer to have become insolvent. The Financial Times reported last week that ministers are examining a similar plan.

The National Employment Savings Trust (Nest), the government-backed default pension scheme, could also be folded into the superfund to form a £400 billion-plus vehicle that could be used for long-term investments in the UK, the Tony Blair Institute said. A minimum of 25 per cent of the fund — about £100 billion — would be mandated for British assets.

This could mark the start of a series of superfunds, created by consolidating other areas of the pension industry, including local government schemes and defined benefit schemes, it suggested.

The proposal will add fuel to the debate into how the government could increase flagging investment in Britain.

At the turn of the millennium, British pensions had more than half of their assets invested in UK-listed equities but this has since dropped to 4 per cent as a result of tax and accounting changes.

There are also worries that British start-ups in high-growth areas such as technology, life sciences and renewables find it hard to secure investment in the UK and are looking overseas.

The City of London Corporation has proposed compelling defined contribution schemes to contribute to a £500 billion Future Growth Fund for tech firms. Public sector plans and the Universities Superannuation Scheme could also be folded into giant vehicles.

Oliver Morley, head of the PPF, said: "We welcome the chance to work with government and the wider industry to explore the various options and be part of the potential solution."

Four in ten apprentices quit course

High dropout rate costs training providers £2bn

James Hurley Assistant Business Editor

The "critical failure" of the government's reforms to vocational training has seen 40 per cent of apprentices drop out, costing training providers £1.9 billion in lost earnings between 2018 and last year.

Apprenticeship completion rates have fallen from 65 per cent in 2019 to 58 per cent in 2021, adding to concerns about the apprenticeship levy, which was supposed to increase the supply of skilled workers. In the past financial year, training providers that deliver apprenticeships lost out on £545 million of potential earnings due to training not being completed, compared with £389 million three years earlier, according to a response to a freedom of information request.

The levy requires businesses with an annual wage bill of more than £3 million to pay 0.5 per cent of their payroll costs into a training fund. They can use the cash for qualifying training schemes. But apprenticeship "starts" and completions have fallen since it was introduced in 2017. Over the past five years, £4.3 billion was raised by the levy but not spent on apprenticeships and kept by, or returned to, the Treasury.

A report by the Policy Exchange think tank this month said the system had had "some successes" but concluded that it "is not currently delivering the number of high-quality apprenticeships that our country needs".

Lizzie Crowley, senior policy adviser for skills at the CIPD, a professional body for human resources, said: "Apprenticeship achievement rates are a national disgrace. If almost half of A-level students dropped out before completing, there would be uproar. We need a similar level of urgency in tackling this critical failure."

The government is investigating the dropout rate. Causes are said to include employers struggling to provide enough time for apprentices to study or complete "off-the-job" training.

Rubitek, an apprenticeship software company that obtained the data on lost potential earnings, said missing out on funds had "a negative impact" on the quality of apprenticeships.

Kate Shoesmith, deputy chief executive of the Recruitment and Employment Confederation, said: "The levy is an entirely failed policy. Businesses are paying in, more than £4 billion is unspent yet the start and completion rates are falling when we have 1.7 million job vacancies and need skilled labour. We need this policy reviewed."

Calls for reform include allowing shorter and more flexible courses of high immediate value to the economy, from HGV driving to coding, to be eligible for funding from the levy.

The Department for Education said: "The vast majority of apprentices and employers are satisfied with their programme. We know that some apprentices do leave courses early due to positive personal reasons, such as getting a promotion."

The department said it was committed to boosting apprenticeships "by investing in more support for training providers, apprentices, and employers through schemes like the workforce development programme".

SHIRLAINE FORREST/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES



The music label has partnered with artificial intelligence firms to ensure artists such as Stormzy continue to receive royalties

Universal tunes into AI to see off threat

Katie Prescott
Technology Business Editor

Universal Music and its subsidiaries have announced partnerships with several artificial intelligence businesses for the first time, taking steps to protect artists from the threat to their intellectual property from the technology.

It has agreed a tie-up with Endel, which produces chill-out music by partnering with a musician and then creating soundscapes from their work, to help sleep or relaxation.

The world's biggest music label, whose artists include Stormzy, Justin Bieber and Taylor Swift, will licence music to Endel and, if a consumer uses the app to listen to something derived from it, the rights holder gets paid.

"The partnership will always respect creators' rights and put artists at the centre of the creative process," Universal said.

Universal Music Group (UMG) runs a music tech incubator called Abbey Road Red. One of the start-ups involved, DAACI, which uses AI to help people compose music, has in turn announced two other investments in "ethical AI" this week "by ensuring that the tools it builds respect copyright, trademark, rights of publicity," it said.

UMG has businesses across 60 countries in recording, publishing and merchandising and made €10.3 billion in revenue last year from musicians such as the Beatles, Elton John and Abba. It floated on the Amsterdam stock exchange in 2021.

Generative AI, which uses artificial intelligence to make content such as text, code, images or video, is trained on vast swathes of material, including that belonging to writers, artists and authors.

The creative industries, a big part of the UK's economy, are extremely concerned about the impact on how artists will be recognised and recompensed if their work is used by a robot to make something new. A source close to the business said the move by the music giant was an attempt to shape what the future of the technology could look like for the business, to help artists lean into it but crucially make sure they get paid.

In its recent white paper on regulating AI, the government emphasised it was trying to "keep the right balance between protecting rights holders and our thriving creative industries, while supporting AI developers to access the data they need. A consultation on the issue closes on June 21 and a code of practice on text and data mining will be in place by the summer.

Need to know

1 The explosion of artificial intelligence will lure people back to the office as they try to stand out from the bots, fast-tracking the careers of junior recruits by two years in the process, according to the chairman of PwC. "The best way a human can differentiate themselves from a robot is in person," Kevin Ellis said. **Page 1**

2 The taxman has been forced to apologise after admitting that failures on its website left entrepreneurs unable to complete the paperwork necessary to set up their businesses. HM Revenue & Customs said "technical issues" meant an anti-money laundering form was not usable. **Page 2**

3 Planning permission has been granted for one of Britain's largest electric charging service stations. The development in the South Downs National Park will cost an estimated £10 million to £12 million and will include a cycling track, sustainable accommodation and a showroom for electric cars. **Page 15**

4 A "critical failure" of the government's reforms to vocational training has seen 40 per cent of apprentices drop out, costing training providers £1.9 billion in lost earnings between 2018 and last year. **Page 33**

5 The government-backed pensions lifeboat should be overhauled to create a £400 billion "superfund" that could help to solve the problem of waning domestic investment in the UK, Sir Tony Blair's think tank has proposed. **Page 33**

6 Universal Music and its subsidiaries have announced partnerships with several artificial intelligence businesses for the first time, taking steps to protect artists from the threat to their intellectual property from the technology. **Page 33**

7 The accountancy trade body faces an "obvious conflict of interest" for collecting fines levied for misconduct by its members and should use the pot of at least £127 million to improve financial education, campaigners and academics have said.

8 Mike Lynch, the tech entrepreneur once hailed as Britain's answer to Bill Gates, has had $54 million worth of shares in Darktrace taken into custody by the US court system as he awaits trial on fraud charges. **Page 36**

9 Apple is on track to regain its status as the world's only $3 trillion company, amid a remarkable rally after last year's sell-off of technology stocks. The price of shares in the iPhone maker has risen more than a third this year, edging back towards the marker that they fleetingly crossed at the start of last year. The group's valuation climbed to $2.76 trillion last week. **Page 39**

10 Blue Ocean Seismic Services in Farnborough has finished trials of a novel submarine drone it claims could halve the cost of offshore seismic surveys, which are crucial to the oil and gas industry. **Page 39**

The cost of Brexit: red tape, tensions and lack of labour

Times reporters look at the effect that leaving the EU has had on the services industry in the first of a two-part series

After Stellantis, the automotive giant behind Vauxhall, broke cover and warned that it could close its British factories with the loss of 2,000 jobs unless the government renegotiated part of the post-Brexit agreement, the effect of the departure from the European Union on the economy has come under renewed focus.

While Boris Johnson's government issued a report in January last year, outlining the "benefits of Brexit" and "how the UK is taking advantage of leaving the EU", seizing the opportunities, and indeed managing the challenges and measuring the impact, for companies has been made harder by the economic hit from the Covid-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine.

In the first of a two-part series, Times business reporters look at how parts of the service economy are faring almost two and a half years after the end of the Brexit transition period in late 2020.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Brexit dealt a severe blow to Britain's financial services industry by cutting off the City of London's unrestricted access to the EU's single market (Ben Martin writes).

There are tentative signs, however, that ties between the City and Europe could improve.

Andrew Griffith, the City minister and a former senior executive at Sky, this month hailed what he called "the first, yet significant, step towards a more constructive financial services relationship" after a memorandum of understanding on co-operation between the two sides was finally published. This long-awaited deal, which was delayed for more than two years amid wider post-Brexit tensions between the UK and EU, will create a forum for financial regulators in Britain and Europe to work more closely together.

"Our financial markets are deeply interconnected and this framework will mean we can engage with our partners in the EU, much as we do with other major partners like the US," Griffith said.

Yet while it marks progress in the relationship between the two sides, the agreement will do nothing to tackle the biggest obstacle that Brexit created for the UK's financial services industry. This is because it does not deal with UK firms' access to the EU's single market, nor does it have a bearing on any future equivalence decisions, which is when different countries allow market access because they have similar regulatory regimes.

> **£100bn**
> **Estimated investment to be unlocked by easing insurers' solvency rules**
> UK Government

One senior banker in London said the agreement was an encouraging development but for the time being it was largely "symbolic".

In practice, it will change nothing for the UK banks, asset managers and other financial firms that have had to restructure their operations to adapt to the barriers that have been thrown up by Brexit. City firms have been forced to set up new bases in Europe to ensure that they can continue to do business on the Continent. While this has involved the movement of far fewer jobs from the UK than was initially feared at the time of the 2016 referendum vote, EY, the professional services firm, said last year that about 7,000 staff had been moved to the EU and 24 firms had set out plans to transfer more than £1.3 trillion of UK assets to the bloc.

More jobs are likely to drift away from London to assuage concerns at the European Central Bank about the way that international lenders have structured their operations in the EU. The ECB said a year ago that a review of 264 trading desks at seven banks found that most were "empty shells". It warned that 56 of the desks "warranted targeted supervisory action", including better staffing.

Amsterdam has been a big winner from Brexit after share trading business seeped away from London to the Netherlands. Europe is also trying to assert control over the clearing market that is centred on the City.

The EU wants the clearing of euro-denominated derivatives to take place in the bloc following Brexit. While the European Commission has granted temporary equivalence to UK clearing houses that allows them to manage euro-denominated transactions, this ends in June 2025, creating a looming cliff-edge for the market.



Boris Johnson highlighted the benefits

INSURANCE

Revamping rules in the insurance sector was seen as an easy Brexit dividend but the UK has been slow to seize the opportunity (Ben Martin writes).

At the centre of the debate has been the Solvency II rulebook, which came into force in 2016, when Britain was still part of the EU. Senior figures in the insurance industry have long bemoaned the regulations as too restrictive. They wanted to overhaul the rules to make it easier for insurers to invest more capital in a wider range of assets. Johnson, when he was prime minister, set reform in motion in 2020.

However, the plan soon met resistance from regulators at the Bank of England's Prudential Regulation Authority, who were concerned that ministers were loosening the rules too far. This led to a clash between the government and the PRA which only ended in November, when Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, decided to overrule the regulator.

Pushing through an overhaul of Solvency II is now one of the centrepie-

Global Britain badly needs a bold strategy for growth

CS Venkatakrishnan
Comment

Strikes, double-digit inflation, negative real wage growth and rising interest rates: if it were not for low unemployment, you would be forgiven for thinking that we were in the 1970s.

However, the UK is in a far stronger position than it was then, with high employment, shining sectors in the economy and far less real difference between political parties on economic policy.

Nevertheless, the incipient reversal of three decades of globalisation, along with economic nationalism, poses risks. If the UK wishes to grow respectably and sustainably, it must re-embrace its business-friendly roots and develop a robust, co-ordinated industrial policy. Covid, geopolitical instability and the energy crisis have accelerated the unwinding of globalised supply chains and prompted a reversion to industrial policies not seen for decades.

Governments of all stripes are enacting legislation to support, and often protect, favoured industries. The expansion of US semiconductor manufacturing, to reduce reliance on China, and the Inflation Reduction Act which includes $370 billion of energy-transition subsidies are cases in point. The EU has updated its industrial strategy to support the twin transition to a green and digital economy.

The UK has a record of world-leading innovation. British steam engines, turbines, medicines, telecommunications, banking and insurance shaped global trade. Those days look to be behind us.

Britain voted to leave the EU seven years ago, but has failed to define its new global trading relationships. To regain its place as one of the strongest growing G7 countries, Britain needs a bold, forward-looking policy agenda and industrial strategy integrated with an actively and consistently engaged business community.

Business leaders and policymakers need to work together to develop and sustain a favourable environment to attract and reward private capital. We must identify areas where Britain has a competitive advantage and put our weight behind driving their success. The UK is a global leader in advanced manufacturing, life sciences, and financial and professional services. Our digital technology sector is vibrant and rapidly growing; we are a leader in offshore wind and nuclear energy; and our creative industries are renowned worldwide. We should focus on these sectors and skills.

With numerous claims on public finances, and limited scope to borrow, public funding to support an industrial strategy is limited. We need to compete for private capital on a global stage — identifying important projects and cultivating an ease of doing business. We must attract investment via infrastructure development, expand innovation hubs that foster entrepreneurship and channel research funding and skills development into our areas of strategic national interest. Getting this right will require a systematic approach, linked to an active and vibrant UK market for connecting companies with capital.

How do you boost growth with already full employment? A properly thought-through industrial policy will emphasise the skills and talent we need to attract from outside the UK. People who have come to this country have staffed and managed our hospitals, invented technologies and run some of our biggest companies.

The path ahead may not be straightforward but we need to worry less about long-term decline and concentrate on delivering long-term, sustainable growth. We need to turbo-charge action on all fronts.

CS Venkatakrishnan is group chief executive of Barclays



of Brexit to the economy but the City, shops and hospitality have faced challenges as a result of exiting the European Union

ces of Hunt's so-called Edinburgh reforms, a 30-point plan he unveiled in December to cut red tape across Britain's financial services sector.

The government has estimated that relaxing the rules for insurers could unlock £100 billion of investment that could go into long-term UK infrastructure projects such as green energy, boosting the economy in the process.

However, some in the insurance industry are still frustrated with the plans that the UK set out, not least because the EU is pushing ahead with its own Solvency II reform which goes further and is moving faster than Britain's revamp.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

A patchwork of new regulations across the bloc have sprung up, presenting extra challenges for professional services firms and their employees and clients after Brexit (Helen Cahill writes).

Accountants qualified in the UK are no longer automatically recognised by EU countries under rules that have applied since January 2021. Member states including France and Denmark now require UK accountants to take additional tests to work in their countries, although others such as Germany and Spain still recognise UK professional qualifications.

Parent companies with an EU subsidiary must now adhere to local requirements in member states.

The legal profession has been reshaping operations on the Continent to ensure compliance with local requirements for market access. Mickaël Laurans, head of the Law Society's international team, said countries had taken a range of approaches to granting access to UK firms. Belgium and the Netherlands had remained open to UK companies but other jurisdictions have been more restrictive.

Lawyers must also now comply with varying attitudes towards providing legal services while travelling on shorter trips to EU countries.

Laurans said: "Something that has been a bit of a headache has been the mobility issue and how easy it is to travel from the UK to EU member states and what work you can do when you travel. It's about whether you are allowed to provide legal services when you travel to Germany, Hungary or Spain, or whether you are only allowed to meet clients and attend conferences. We would like more transparency and clarity on these issues."

The trade and co-operation agreement between the EU and the UK has a provision to ensure countries are transparent about their requirements. But Laurans said more needed to be done to enforce the provision.

RETAIL

The new rules that emerged on the back of Brexit are bittersweet for retailers (Isabella Fish writes).

Brexit has brought in several industry-friendly initiatives such as the return of duty-free shopping on alcohol and tobacco between the EU and UK but it has also brought hostile policies such as the removal of the tax-free allowance for travellers leaving the UK.

Removing the duty-free shopping rebate, which allowed tourists to claim back 20 per cent VAT on purchases made in the UK has caused a headache for British luxury brands, as well as the tourism and hospitality sectors.

There have been calls for it to be reinstated from the likes of VisitBritain, Harrods and Burberry, who have complained that it puts Britain at a competitive disadvantage against the likes of France and Italy, but the government is concerned that the cost of retaining the relief would outweigh its benefits.

The fashion and textile manufacturing industry is struggling with the UK-EU trading relationship after Brexit and this has a disproportionately adverse effect on UK businesses.

Paul Alger, director of international affairs at the UK Fashion and Textile Association, said "the UK's competitors are in the single market and customs area and continue to enjoy free circulation for their goods".

Several surveys have found that businesses have had higher costs through bureaucracy, paperwork and freight, and have seen cancelled, returned and rejected orders from EU customers due to customs costs and VAT issues. As a result, 25 per cent of UK fashion retailers were considering moving some or all of their operations elsewhere in the EU to make logistics, staffing and manufacturing easier, according to a report from RetailX.

Retailers have reported problems with the supply of goods to Northern Ireland from the rest of the country and of the supply of goods between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. Supermarkets have reported shortages of basic foodstuffs and other goods.

The government's Windsor framework, unveiled with Brussels in February and which is intended to make trade between Great Britain and Northern Ireland flow more easily, was initially welcomed by industry bodies, including the British Retail Consortium. But they are calling for more clarity over issues including labelling.

HOSPITALITY

As far as the hospitality industry is concerned there is only one real issue of any significance: the exodus of EU workers (Dominic Walsh writes).

Before the pandemic and Brexit about 12 per cent of the workforce in hospitality were from the EU, but that fell to about 5 per cent, with workers from the rest of the world at a similar level.

Although British workers stepped up, Kate Nicholls, chief executive of UKHospitality, the trade body, said it was "not as rapidly or as comprehensively as we'd like to have seen". She added: "Like the rest of the economy, you're seeing record vacancies. We don't have enough labour."

Part of the problem is the youthful demographic of the workforce. The international workers who have filled some of the gaps are mostly students who are restricted to 20 hours of work a week. Many Britons stepping into the breach are also part-timers, as they are still at school or college.

The result is that today's hospitality workforce has a very similar headcount to the era before Brexit and the pandemic but because the 40-hour-a-week EU workers are no longer coming to the UK, the number of full-time equivalents is sharply down, with about 140,000 vacancies.

Some elements of the labour shortage cannot be blamed on Brexit, Covid or inflation. "We always knew there was going to be a problem as we had a dramatic drop in the birth rate in 2000," Nicholls said. "So we were always aware there were around 200,000 fewer UK 18 to 24-year-olds entering the jobs market in 2022 than previously."

British businesses being squeezed by US and China, Leading Article, page 27

Half-term rail strikes to cost hospitality industry £132m

Isabella Fish Retail Editor

Rail strikes over the May half-term week will cost pubs, restaurants and hotels £132 million in sales, the industry body for hospitality has warned.

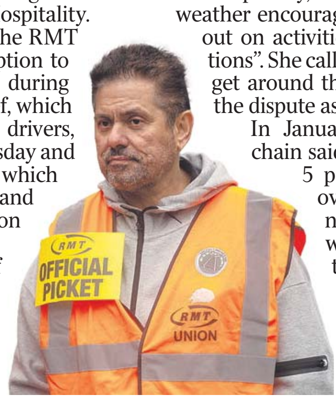
It brings the impact of the year-long dispute to an "eye-watering" £3.25 billion, according to UKHospitality.

Action by Aslef and the RMT unions will bring disruption to the UK's train services during the May half-term. Aslef, which largely represents train drivers, will walk out on Wednesday and Saturday. The RMT, which represents conductors and station staff, will strike on Friday.

Kate Nicholls, head of UKHospitality, said: "We've seen time and again that rail strikes put a significant dampener on any sales as visitors are deterred from booking visits or eating and drinking out. This time that means families staying at home and football fans travelling to the capital for the FA Cup final disrupted."

Nicholls said the upcoming half-term "normally represents a bumper week for hospitality, with typically sunny weather encouraging families to head out on activities, visits and staycations". She called for "all involved to get around the table" and resolve the dispute as soon as possible.

In January the Fuller's pub chain said that strikes led to a 5 per cent fall in sales over Christmas and the new year, compared with 2019. It estimated the industrial action had cost it sales of about £4 million.



The RMT union will walk out on Friday

Use fines for good, accountancy body told

Ben Martin Banking Editor

The accountancy trade body faces an "obvious conflict of interest" for collecting fines levied for misconduct by its members and should use the pot of at least £127 million to improve financial education, campaigners and academics have said.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) has been under increasing scrutiny over an arrangement called the Accountancy Scheme, in which the professional body pockets fines that result from investigations by the Financial Reporting Council, the regulator.

While the institute also covers the upfront costs of these inquiries, if the investigation results in a sanction then a big proportion of these expenses are reimbursed by the firm at fault.

A report by Sheffield University and the Corporate Accountability Network said "the obvious conflict of interest that the receipt of these funds creates for the ICAEW should be resolved".

"We cannot see how a professional body charged with upholding the highest standards of conduct by its members can be seen to gain from the misconduct of those same members, which appears to be the case at present."

The report estimated that the trade body has collected more than £148 million from fines and cost recoveries since 2015, although it is understood that the ICAEW puts its net gain at £127 million since the Accountancy Scheme was set up in 2004.

The academics and campaigners said the money should be transferred to an independently managed charitable body. Some of it should be used to improve the training provided to students of accountancy, and the rest should be put into wider financial education for 16 to 21-year-olds, covering topics from credit and mortgages to avoiding fraud.

Richard Murphy, a professor of accounting at Sheffield who also founded the Corporate Accountability Network, said it was "wholly unreasonable" that the ICAEW "should be enriched every time one of its members is fined for harming the public by delivering substandard work".

"It is just as unacceptable that to date none of those fines have been put to use to compensate society for the harm that chartered accountants have caused and that the ICAEW has not published plans as to how it will do this."

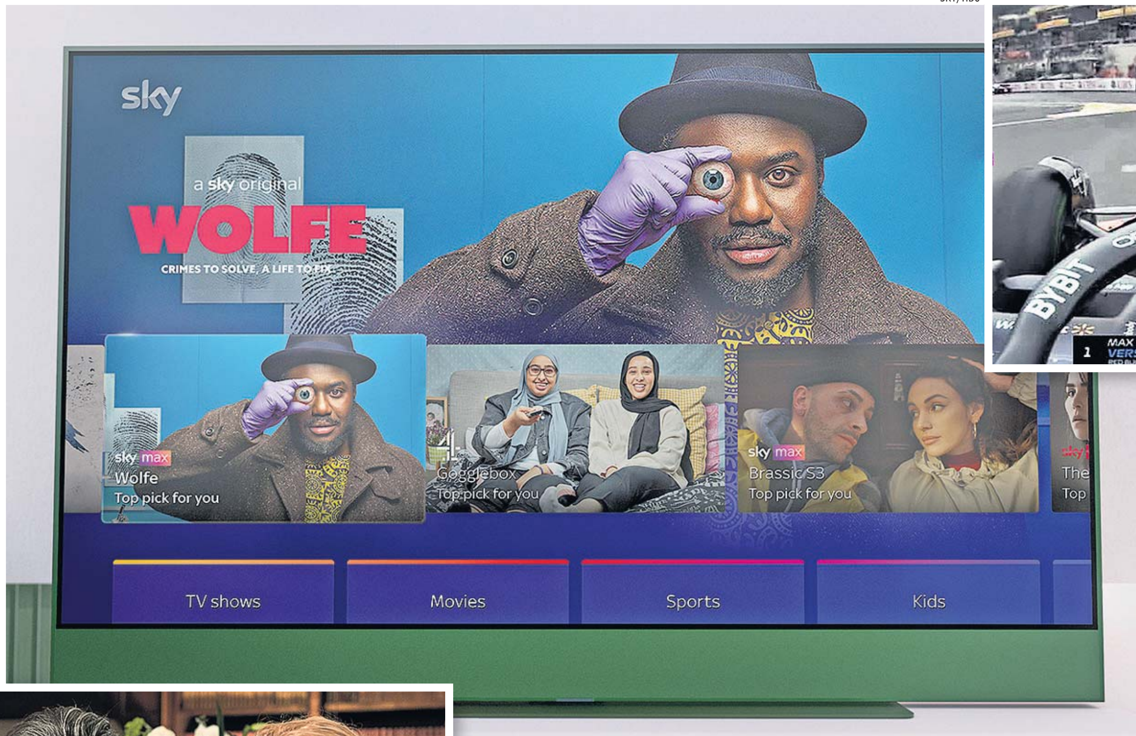
The ICAEW said it had always been "transparent" about its reserves. It noted that the Accountancy Scheme was being superseded by the regulator's Audit Enforcement Procedure for audit investigations, which was introduced in 2016 and under which fines go to the government.

It added: "ICAEW would welcome the closure of the Accountancy Scheme for non-audit investigations as well, with the money from all fines in all cases in future going to HM Treasury. We expect that the proposed Corporate Governance and Audit Reform Bill will enable the regulator to do this, and we continue to urge government to bring this legislation forward."

Sky reinvents TV with touch of Glass

Grid-based schedules are no longer relevant, the Scotsman behind a revolution tells **Callum Jones** in Philadelphia

SKY/HBO





Sky Glass replaces the "huge sea of tiles" on the TV schedules so it is easier to find shows like Succession or flick between live feeds of F1



Almost two centuries ago a Scottish blacksmith from Thornhill is said to have built the first modern bicycle. But the work didn't stop when Kirkpatrick Macmillan was first seen pedalling around Dumfries.

Fraser Stirling, an executive at Sky who was born in the city himself, has chosen the example to highlight how an initial invention so often makes way for many decades of innovation. Today's bikes, while following the same core design, have come a long way from the largely wooden contraption Macmillan is thought to have completed in about 1839.

"At some point, experiences get to a stage where that is fundamentally how it works," Stirling, 43, said. The challenge is to identify ways to drive a product forward. "What is the secret sauce that you can bring that other people maybe cannot?"

Perched on a sofa in Philadelphia — some 3,300-odd miles from home — the executive described how his team set about innovating in an altogether different space. For more than a decade, Stirling and his colleagues have been trying to "murder" a fixture of modern television: the standard grid-based schedule whereby users navigate what they do and don't want to watch.

Who wants to pick what to watch from an "Excel spreadsheet", he wondered? About 15 per cent of the time, people ultimately did not pick anything in his experience. "So the data says it does not work very well, and it looks like, you know, a clown shoe."

Sky wheeled out its response, a television called Glass, about 18 months ago. Running on wi-fi, the television has made headlines for doing away with satellite dishes and set-top boxes. But Stirling was more excited about what actually appeared on screen. The broadcaster's classic blue and yellow programming guide of yesteryear was nowhere to be seen.

In its place, a platform was designed on the basis that television software should "never, ever, ever get in the way" as viewers navigate what is now a deluge of content. Fundamentally, he said, after switching on the telly, people are guided by Fomo, or fear of missing out. "There's going to be something on right now, that I'm missing, that I can't talk to my friends or family or people at work about. Fear of loss: the most strong human emotion."

This meant producing an alternative to the "huge sea" of tiles which has flooded televisions over the past decade. The Glass interface instead seeks to blend the offerings of any given viewer's chosen services, and promote things they are most likely to watch.

"Nobody actually cares" where their programme or film of choice so happens to be on a linear channel, like Channel 4, or an on-demand subscription platform, like Netflix, or a free streaming service, like BBC iPlayer, Stirling said. "Sky, as a company, was born from the idea of more choice. How do you give people more choice? More choice sometimes isn't always good. And if you fast forward today, that's the problem. The problem is this choice, everywhere."

Stirling flicked between an episode of the latest series of *Succession*, a live BBC News bulletin and a recent Formula One race, excitedly showing off a mode for the latter which can display live camera feeds from every single car. "It's sick," he said, noting how viewers can listen into the radios of rival teams.



Choice should not be a burden, says Fraser Stirling

"The worst feature you could possibly ship is the one that no one's heard of. I've done loads of that. You get something you're super proud of, that's super cool, but people don't use it because you've not connected it to customers in a way they understand," he said, pointing to a voice remote with Sky Glass as an example of when things go right. "You say CNN and it changes the channel. What's more perfect than that?"

Building a system like EntertainmentOS was only possible because Comcast bought Sky, Stirling said.

Comcast, the giant cable and entertainment group based in Philadelphia, swooped on Sky with a £30 billion takeover in 2018, outbidding 21st Century Fox, the American entertainment conglomerate, which already owned 39 per cent of the business. Rupert Murdoch, then co-chairman of Fox, is executive chairman of News Corp, owner of The Times.

Stirling was working at Comcast at the time of the acquisition, but had previously spent eight years at Sky. He now works for both, in a role he describes as "Global Product Weirdo" — or chief product officer, according to his LinkedIn profile — and leads the development of EntertainmentOS, or operating system, worldwide.

The future of Sky's broadband business is "supercharged" by Comcast's core internet behemoth, he said, while Comcast has capitalised on Sky's relentless focus on shipping technology that resonates.

Much ink has been spilt on the streaming wars between deep-pocketed entertainment heavyweights, eagerly vying for the attention of audiences. But the competition between those developing the technology that people use to watch films and programmes is just as fierce.

Stirling isn't losing any sleep, however. "Be warned," he told the PR executives in the room, adding: "I don't think about what other people are doing. I'm not saying it's not healthy to have like a wee side-eye on what other people are doing. But, I think, for me it's really important to remember that LG and Samsung are doing a great job… You can't out-TV Samsung. Come on. If anyone says that they can, then they must be LG."

Comcast is circumspect with the data it provides around the operating system's usage, although a spokesman said the technology platform underpinning it was in use across 75 million devices. Last week the conglomerate, which no longer breaks out Sky's specific performance, reported 52.5 million "customer relationships" within its connectivity and platforms division, which includes its vast US cable business and most of Sky. As of December, Sky had about 23 million.

The group has faced questions about how many people actually have the choice of Sky Glass. "Hundreds of thousands of people," apparently, although Comcast declined several invitations to be more specific. The technology behind it, known internally as EntertainmentOS, is expected to reach millions more "over the next few years".

US court locks up Lynch's $54m Darktrace shares until trial ends

Isabella Fish

Mike Lynch, the tech entrepreneur once hailed as Britain's answer to Bill Gates, has had $54 million worth of shares in Darktrace taken into custody by the US court system as he awaits trial on fraud charges.

Lynch, the founding investor of the London-listed cybersecurity firm, put up the shares to meet his bail demands after being extradited to America earlier this month. However, they will remain in the custody of the US court system until Lynch's legal battle is resolved, which could take years.

As first reported by The Daily Telegraph, the 14.6 million shares put up as collateral by Lynch represent about half of his 4.5 per cent stake in the company. His wife, Angela Bacares, owns a separate 6.4 per cent stake worth £122 million.

The court could still technically sell the shares if it needed to realise the proceeds as they remain in free float, a source close to the situation said, but are "just highly unlikely to be traded whilst being held in bond".

Darktrace, which has sought to distance itself from Lynch since he was charged with fraud in 2018, said: "Dr Lynch has no operational, advisory or any other role at Darktrace.

"His relationship with Darktrace is purely limited to his shareholding in the business. These are publicly traded shares and his decisions on how to use his shareholding remain his own."

Lynch, 57, has been taken to the US to face criminal fraud charges after losing his lengthy appeal against extradition. The billionaire founder of Autonomy, the software company, lost his High Court appeal last month, and now faces a criminal trial in California for 17 charges which include conspiracy to commit wire fraud and securities fraud associated to Hewlett Packard's 2011 takeover of Autonomy.

The case is based on accusations that Autonomy's accounts were manipulated, leading to Hewlett Packard overpaying for the UK software group by $5 billion.

Lynch, who could face a maximum sentence of 25 years in prison if found guilty, has always denied the allegations and any wrongdoing.

The development is the latest cloud over the formerly high-flying cybersecurity specialist Darktrace.

It has come under fire from two short-seller attacks over its accounting and in February it appointed EY, the Big Four auditor, to conduct a review of its financial processes to defend itself against the allegations.

Cambridge-based Darktrace uses AI and machine learning to detect cyberattacks. It employs more than 2,200 people and says it protects about 8,400 customers a year. Its advisers include Amber Rudd, a former Conservative minister, and Lord Evans of Weardale, a former MI5 director-general.

Lynch and his wife together own more than 10 per cent of the £2 billion company. Bacares sold about £20 million — 1 per cent — of Darktrace's total stock in a series of deals between January and May. The sales came before Lynch was extradited.

Last month Darktrace forecast annual sales within its previous guidance, despite a slowdown in adding new customers. In a third-quarter trading update, the group said it expected revenue growth of about 31 per cent, at the top end of its prediction in January.

For the second half of 2022, the company reported that revenues were up 36 per cent to $259.2 million, while its adjusted profit beat forecasts, up 33 per cent to $59.7 million.

Mark Littlewood



Arbitrary way of allocating school places is turning parents into liars

The tale of Bhakti Shah is tragic and salutary. Last week she admitted eight charges of what essentially amounts to deception, when she appeared at Willesden magistrates' court. She had lied about where she was domiciled and forged utility bills to show her son was in the catchment area for the highly desirable Mill Hill County High School in north London.

The school receives more than 1,300 applications a year for fewer than 300 places. Shah's motives surely are appreciated by any parent, wanting the best possible education for your children. Of course, one shouldn't condone fraud but it is hard not to sympathise with families trapped in an arbitrary and restrictive system for the allocation of school places.

A survey last year found that fully a quarter of parents lie, or at least bend the rules, to try to secure places in good schools. Few go to the extremes of Shah, who will be sentenced on June 8, but many exploit grey areas. This might amount to exaggerating a religious affiliation or suggesting a child lives at a relative's address (or even locating them there for a while).

For those of means, there are wholly legitimate ways to game the system. Zoopla estimates there is an £83,000 premium on properties within the catchment areas for top performing schools.

The statistics suggest that the challenge of navigating the school selection is a real headache, even a nightmare, for thousands of parents. This year, the official numbers suggest about 15 per cent of applicants did not get into their first choice, but this disguises the real figure as a large number of parents probably do not even apply for their top pick if they believe the chances are so minimal.

This September the scale of disappointment is likely to worsen as about 640,000 pupils apply for a Year 7 place, with 100,000 predicted to miss out on their preferred school.

All of this is a regrettable, but predictable, consequence of refusing to allow a market to properly function across the education sector. Obviously, this doesn't mean that all schools should be fee-paying, but we surely need a better allocation system.

If the Labour Party forms the next government, the stampede for places at desirable state schools will worsen. About 600,000 students are presently in the independent sector, but this is certain to fall under Sir Keir Starmer's policies. Private schools will be stripped of charitable status and VAT will be levied on school fees.

Some estimates suggest that as many as 135,000 additional students will be transferred to the state sector, either because a private school is no longer financially viable or because parents won't be able to cope with the hike in fees. Labour claims the added burden on state schools will amount to a mere 10 per cent of this number, but its calculations appear to be based on a model over ten years old and assuming a VAT rate of 10 per cent.

On the Conservative side, there has been limited progress in liberalising education since the introduction of free schools, which have produced some interesting, but patchy, results.

The reform we really need is to embrace Milton Friedman's policy proposal of the 1950s — to introduce a voucher system to allocate school places. Parents would receive a voucher annually from the state based on the average cost of a school place for a child of a given age. They then become empowered customers rather than citizens trapped in a bureaucratic system.

It is true that, just as now, only affluent parents (or pupils so bright to win some sort of scholarship) would be able to access the likes of Eton College or Harrow. However, it's a myth that private fees need to be high. In Spain, for example, costs in the state sector are higher per student than in the independent sector.

Here in the UK, we also have the example of the Independent Grammar School in Durham, which charges £300 a month — less than a quarter of the typical private school fee. Such enterprises would be likely to spring up across the country if we switched to a system of vouchers.

Adopting this system might sound like a radical leap, but in fact vouchers are commonplace elsewhere. The Dutch have operated education vouchers for over a hundred years. It appears to have been successful in delivering good outcomes at reasonable costs. Secondary education costs about the same as in the UK, but primary schools are much cheaper.

The Dutch come out at about the same level as the British on educational attainment, although this may well overstate our own position as there is considerable suspicion that grade inflation has artificially boosted the UK's standing.

In the US, school vouchers are not confined to right-wing Republican areas. Fifteen states have adopted school vouchers as well as a number of municipalities including ultra-Democrat Milwaukee and Washington DC. Again, the system seems to keep costs reasonable, with the typical annual private school fee of $12,000 being about 25 per cent lower than state school costs.

A review of studies of US school voucher programmes by the Cato Institute shows 90 per cent of studies reporting enhanced educational achievement and 93 per cent showing greater parental satisfaction with the education system.

If we are serious about providing high quality, cost-effective education for all children, parents need to be empowered, not entrapped in their school selections. We often hear that parents want quality rather than choice, but the latter can help drive the former. It would also spare us from the horrible chicanery that parents have to engage in to get the best they can for their kids. Shah would have faced the dilemma of where to spend the voucher, but she would not have resorted to concocting utility bills.



Using vouchers to allocate school places would empower families

Mark Littlewood is director-general of the Institute of Economic Affairs. Twitter: @MarkJLittlewood

Ed Warner

There's a good reason why fans can have real value in the boardroom

A sharp exchange of views in the letters section of The Yorkshire Post arrows to the heart of the role of non-executive directors. A disgruntled member of Yorkshire County Cricket Club, mired in a racism crisis and with its men's team bottom of the early season table, asks why none of its independent directors have been seen at a match this year. "Spectators could be offered a cash prize if they spot a NED [non-executive director] … It won't cost much."

Rebutting the non-attendance claim, Yorkshire's chief executive declares that, in order to deal with "everything that has happened over the past few years … a number of the board are not here for their views on first-class cricket".

You'd want to go to a game, though, wouldn't you? Enjoy a perk to balance the doubtless heavy load of finance and governance issues, even if the first team is propping up the other 17 counties right now? You'd surely need to have some love of cricket to take up an unpaid board seat, especially in the present toxic environment. Yorkshire CCC has seven independent directors. Their collective biographies on the county's website contain only a single mention of cricket but a welter of achievements in law, accountancy, PR, sport and commerce.

Not all businesses are anywhere near as alluring as sport, but my varied experience in executive and non-executive roles across sectors suggests it is vital that non-executive directors have some affinity for an organisation's outputs if they are to really deliver around the boardroom table. You don't have to have a deep operational understanding of its industry, just so long as some directors do. But you must demonstrably care about what it does, and why it does it. You might be surprised at just how often non-executive directors lack such empathy.

Super-fans can be dangerous non-executives, not only in sport but across industries. They can crowd discussion with their desire for operational minutiae, dragging debate away from the strategic agenda and into matters best left to the full-time executives. Which athletes are injured? What are the tweaks in the latest software facelift? How is the new product launch being played into the media? As a chairman, though, I'd rather have to temper enthusiasm than have to rev up colleagues whose appetite to be on the board might appear a mystery.

I found myself in hi-viz and a hard hat on a site visit a couple of weeks back, conscious of the risk of appearing like a politician in pristine protective gear on a vote-gathering campaign trail. I left the technical questions to those with specialist knowledge and hoped that my back-to-basics inquiries didn't leave local management with the impression I was undeserving of my role. I wouldn't have missed the trip for anything, though, as it brought all the black-and-white work of board oversight into technicolour focus.

> 'The corporate and public sector worlds have become tangled in a cat's cradle of bureaucratic requirements'

The corporate and public sector worlds have become tangled in a cat's cradle of bureaucratic requirements. However well-intentioned these stipulations might be (and many are), their effect has been to deflect board recruitment away from its primary object, to assist an organisation in being the best it can be. Instead, too often non-execs today are appointed because they are deemed to be able to deliver control, when success should be measured across far more dimensions than that. Instead of super-fans, we get women and men with ice blocking their veins, the "market" having over-reacted to the challenges, scandals and crises that have affected organisations across the economy and society.

A career as a plural non-executive director can and should be an emotionally rewarding one. This, though, is dependent on evident enthusiasm and empathy, qualities that serve any boardroom well. Always worth remembering when you brief a headhunter.

Ed Warner sits on a number of boards. He is writing in a personal capacity

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Apple nears top of tree again as world's only $3trn company

Callum Jones
US Business Correspondent

Apple is on track to regain its status as the world's only $3 trillion company, amid a remarkable rally after last year's sell-off of technology stocks.

The price of shares in the iPhone maker has risen more than a third this year, edging back towards the marker that they fleetingly crossed at the start of last year. The group's valuation climbed to $2.76 trillion last week.

Big tech businesses endured a torrid year on the stock market as higher interest rates and fears of recession cast a long shadow. Netflix started losing subscribers for the first time in more than a decade; sales at Meta Platforms, owner of Facebook and Instagram, slipped into decline; and Apple grappled with supply chain issues and doubts over the resilience of consumer demand.

Having briefly scaled an unprecedented high for a public company, the market turbulence knocked Apple's capitalisation by $1 trillion in 12 months. It has since recouped much of its losses, however, and closed up 1.4 per cent, to $175.4 a share on Friday.

"You're seeing large cap tech shares rebound on the increasing expectation that the last interest rate hike by the Fed was the last one," said Tom Forte, a senior research analyst at DA Davidson, a broker in New York. "The very rapid rise in rates put material pressure on shares last year."

Apple was benefiting "tremendously" from China's reopening after years of stringent Covid restrictions, Forte added, which is easing supply chain pressures and bolstering consumer demand.

Revenues at Meta, hit by a struggling digital advertising market, have returned to growth. Netflix reported a record number of subscribers in the first quarter. Shares in Meta are up more than 100 per cent this year, while Netflix has gained nearly 30 per cent.

Investors were turning to large technology stocks, such as Apple, as "ports in the storm," said Scott Kessler, global sector lead for technology, media and telecommunications at Third Bridge, an investment adviser. "Apple and other big tech companies have seen recoveries, in part reflecting this notion that — with more and more uncertainty in the global economy in global markets — these are companies that, because of their size and their balance sheet strength, can perhaps weather the storm better than most others."

Apple, headed by Tim Cook since 2011, is the world's biggest public company, ahead of Microsoft and Aramco, the Saudi oil giant. While sales have fallen in some corners of its empire, with revenue generated by Mac computers, iPad tablets and other accessories down in the first three months of the year, sales of the iPhone, which typically generate more than half its business, grew. The group's services unit, which includes its music and television streaming platforms, also continued to expand.

Dev Chakrabarti, a chief investment officer at AllianceBernstein, an asset manager, said: "Apple has been a beneficiary of a narrow US market in our view in 2023, and one of a handful of stocks that have been leading it. We don't think the growth in either earnings or operating profits is as strong as it has historically been, and while the innovation platform adds product extensions each year, it's been some time since a major new product itself was added.

"What investors value, however, is the stability and consistency of their revenue streams and the increasingly annuity-like nature coming from ancillary areas such as services, cloud and care."

Some investors "hyperfocused on artificial intelligence" were also turning to Apple, Forte suggested. "What people are realising is that, while Microsoft may do a better job with public relations as it relates to its artificial intelligence efforts, Apple is certainly proficient in tech and they'll figure out a way to leverage the wave."

WU HAO/EPA



China's reopening after Covid boosted demand for Apple products and resolved supply chain problems for Tim Cook



Underwater drone looks ship-shape after trials

Dominic O'Connell

A Farnborough-based company has finished trials of a novel submarine drone it claims could halve the cost of offshore seismic surveys, which are crucial to the oil and gas industry.

Blue Ocean Seismic Services has tested three machines at depths of up to 100m in Loch Ness and Loch Linnhe. It plans to have the first in commercial service at the end of next year and is in the final stages of selecting a UK partner to build a manufacturing plant.

Underwater seismic surveys are vital to the discovery of new offshore oil and gas wells, and caverns to be used in carbon capture and storage schemes.

Surveys have traditionally been done by specialist vessels towing "streamer" cables. Sound waves are bounced off the ocean floor and the geography and geology is interpreted from the returns.

Better quality surveys can be obtained by placing seismic mapping devices directly on the sea floor. They can be dropped and retrieved by cable, but the method is limited by the depth. Anything much more than 200m and the units have to be placed by manned submarines, a process that can cost more than £100,000 a day.

The Blue Ocean Seismic drones will be dropped off the side of a ship and "fly" to the sea bed. After completing a survey, they can move to a new location, or go back to the ship. Simon Illingworth, Blue Ocean Seismic's chief executive, believed they were the first to make a drone with such a capability. "It may be there is something military out there we don't know about, but in commercial service there is nothing like this."

Illingworth envisages the drones operating in clouds to cover large areas. "I think our biggest demand could be from carbon capture and storage schemes because you have to find the right cavern, then see what happens when you put the carbon dioxide in it, and then monitor it continuously."

The drones did not catch a glimpse of the Loch Ness monster. "Unfortunately, we didn't see her," Illingworth said.

The firm plans to raise £30 million at the end of this year to continue trials.

Drive for electric cars 'will subsidise Chinese'

Robert Lea Industrial Editor

Auto industry leaders have warned the government that its zero emission vehicle mandate to accelerate the availability of electric cars in the UK will end up subsidising Chinese imports.

The zero emission vehicle (ZEV) mandate kicks in from January 1 next year and decrees that 22 per cent of all cars and vans a manufacturer sells in Britain must come without an internal combustion engine. If they are not able to hit that figure, they will have to pay fines of £15,000 for each vehicle sold that falls under the threshold.

For companies like Japan's Toyota, whose brands sold 125,000 vehicles in the UK last year but which is only belatedly introducing fully electric ones to Britain, that could lead to fines of hundreds of millions of pounds. Conversely, many Chinese manufacturers are almost solely making electric vehicles.

There will also be a provision for a secondary market in the trading of "credits" for those manufacturers that sell more electric cars than the 22 per cent mandate. The system is aimed at penalising those that don't make enough electric cars and incentivising those that mainly or exclusively manufacture them for sale in Britain.

The latter include Tesla, which manufactures its bestselling Model Y in China, and others like Polestar, owned by Geely, and MG, owned by Shanghai Automotive, which both sell cars in Britain that are made in China.

The credits trading system means that a carmaker which doesn't sell enough zero-emission vehicles can avoid paying fines to the Treasury and instead buy credits from an electric carmaker at a lower agreed price. The consultation on the ZEV mandate closed last week.

"The danger with the ZEV mandate as it stands is that Britain will end up effectively subsidising the Chinese car industry," said one senior automotive executive after filing his submission to the consultation last week.

Volvo's Polestar is owned by Geely, of China, which will receive a windfall from credits received under the zero emission vehicle mandate



The leading seller of electric cars in the UK is Tesla which sold more than 50,000 last year. Under the credit trading mechanism it could be in line for windfalls running into hundreds of millions of pounds.

Tesla has been a huge beneficiary of a similar ZEV mandate scheme in California with the income from trading credits helping to bankroll its expansion. Chinese manufacturers like Polestar and MG as well as new Chinese entrants like Great Wall with its Ora brand and BYD are ramping up sales in Britain and would also be beneficiaries.

Ben Nelmes, chief executive of the New AutoMotive consultancy, said manufacturers with too few electric car sales could elect to pay the fines rather than buy credits — thereby avoiding subsidising rivals — or come to an arrangement with the Treasury to "borrow" credits on the promise of future electric car sales.

AEGON

Scottish Equitable Policyholders Trust Limited

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the thirtieth ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Qualifying Policyholders of Scottish Equitable Policyholders Trust Limited will be held at Aegon, Lochside Crescent, Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh EH12 9SE on 14 June 2023 at 1:45 p.m. for the following purposes:

1. To consider the Report on the activities of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2022.
2. To approve the aggregate ordinary remuneration to be made available to the Directors of the Company.
3. To reappoint Christopher Campbell (retiring by rotation as a Director of the Company).

Any Qualifying Policyholder who is entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint another person (who need not be a Qualifying Policyholder) as his proxy to attend and vote instead of him. A proxy is entitled to vote but is not entitled to speak except to demand or join in demanding a poll. Proxy forms, which can be obtained from the Secretary, must be deposited at Aegon, Lochside Crescent, Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh EH12 9SE before 9 am on 13 June 2023.

Any Qualifying Policyholder whose policy, as at the commencement of the Meeting, is in force, and has been at least one year in force, is entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting.

"Qualifying Policyholders" for the purposes of this Notice has the meaning set out in the Trust Deed executed by the Company on 31 December 1993 and extends to:

(a) any person who was a member of Scottish Equitable Life Assurance Society and whose policy was transferred to Scottish Equitable plc; and
(b) any person who has a with profits policy with Scottish Equitable plc where the policy has been linked to the With Profits Sub-Fund for a continuous period of at least one year as at the commencement of the Meeting.

Any queries in respect of the qualification of policyholders to attend and vote at the Meeting should be addressed to the Secretary.

By Order of the Board
James K MacKenzie
Secretary

Aegon
Lochside Crescent
Edinburgh Park
Edinburgh
EH12 9SE

Pensions | Investments | Protection

Australian can-do attitude puts designer on the map

THE TIMES
ENTERPRISE NETWORK
TECHNOLOGY

The chief executive of Canva has some big ambitions for the challenger to Adobe, reports **Richard Tyler**

Eighty million people using your idea to make their birthday cards, flyers and T-shirts would be humbling enough for most entrepreneurs. Melanie Perkins, the 36-year-old chief executive of Canva, reached that milestone last October.

It had taken her nine years of hard graft, building the Sydney-based graphic design business with Cliff Obrecht and Cameron Adams, her co-founders. Word-of-mouth is a powerful force, though, and by April this year 135 million people were using Canva's design tools each month.

Adobe, the American company that is Canva's bigger rival, estimated last year that there were 303 million people in the world making money from their creative talents — the "creator economy" — and that the number had increased by 165 million since the start of the pandemic. It is a trend that Canva is tapping into.

"All our charts are showing we are accelerating at this point in time," Perkins said last week at the opening of Canva's new London campus in Hoxton. "Revenue growth is accelerating, user growth is accelerating, subscriber growth is accelerating."

The company says its annual revenues are at $1.5 billion for the year to May, generated from the 14 million people and six million businesses that pay for the premium or corporate version of its software. It has been profitable for six years and was valued at $40 billion at its last fundraising in 2021, when venture capital firms gave it another $200 million (it has raised $573 million in total, according to Crunchbase). The deal made Perkins Australia's second richest woman last year, according to The Australian Financial Review.

Canva did not escape the recent global correction in technology company valuations and investors reduced its worth last year by about $15 billion. Yet even with the lower valuation, the three co-founders are billionaires. Perkins and Obrecht married in 2021 and had their first child last year. They have pledged to give most of their 30 per cent equity stake to their foundation to support projects that help to eradicate poverty and have made donations of more than £7.5 million. "I don't want to live on a planet where people don't have access to basic human rights," she said.

Perkins was in London to discuss Canva's plans in Europe. Its tools are already loved by the Spanish, apparently, and she wants more Britons to follow suit. The goal is to more than double the existing base of 22 million European customers in the next couple of years.

Established industry players have been watching Canva's progress, not least Adobe, which has long been the go-to software provider for professional designers. Its digital media division, which includes its Photoshop and Illustrator software, generated sales of $10.5 billion in 2022, helped in part by the release in late 2021 of a "freemium" web browser version of its design software, called Adobe Express.

Both companies have released AI-driven enhancements, from text-based image and design editing using generative AI to machine-learning software that takes an image and suggests designs that might work for those in need of inspiration, but Obrecht, 37, thinks Canva has the edge. "It is very hard to compete with a product like ours," he said. "I am just flattered that they like what we are doing and have taken inspiration from us. Perkins added: "We play nicely with other tools. You can take your [Adobe] Photoshop files and use them in Canva and export them to [Microsoft] PowerPoint."



Melanie Perkins, co-founder and chief

Perkins and Obrecht had the idea for simple design software while studying at university in 2007 and initially applied it to the creation of school yearbooks. Then based in Perth, the pair moved to Sydney and started work on Canva as it is today after meeting Adams, 43. Rejections from investors followed before the trio secured a seed round in March 2013. The business then took off, reaching ten million users a month in 2018.

Perkins is mindful that more people are now watching Canva. "In the early days, we'd launch something and my mum would be the only person who cared. Now a lot more people care. Ironically, when we launch products now, I still think about my family and friends. 'Is it good enough for them?' Because if it's not good enough for them, it isn't for 135 million people."

Perkins will mark Canva's tenth birthday on August 26. She said she was proud to have built such a large community of users. "I feel like as we go into the next decade, it is really about using that huge opportunity, and the responsibility that we have, to turn that into magic," she said.

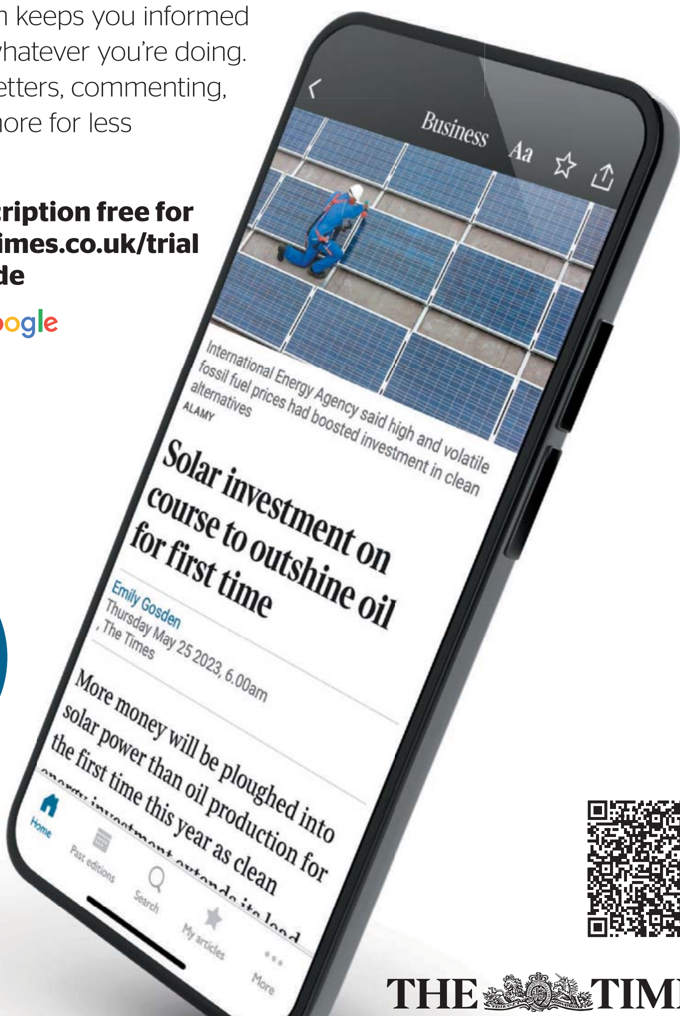
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LUCY YOUNG FOR THE TIMES



executive of Canva, spreads the word about the graphic design software at a gathering in Hoxton Square, London

How to halt our decline and fall? Return to offices

Sir Martin Sorrell



In his *History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, the historian Edward Gibbon identified a variety of causes for the fading influence and erosion of power in Rome. A key theme was the loss of discipline, whether that be abandonment of civic virtue, waning loyalty to the empire or corruption and ineffective leadership. It is tempting to see comparisons today, especially in the West, where decades of economic domination seem to be drawing to an end.

The parallel may not be immediately obvious, but future historians may judge that hybrid or flexible working, which emerged during the pandemic and has since become widely established as the norm for people who previously worked in an office, is emblematic of our own decline.

Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, has caused a stir by saying that working in the office should be the default unless there is a good reason for working from home. I find that I am increasingly inclined to agree with him, having earlier been much more enthusiastic about the alternative.

For the first year or two of the pandemic, I was of the view that encouraging people to work from home, for up to two days a week at least, was a good thing. Our experience was that it worked: work-life balance was better and productivity improved. There were obvious benefits: people could avoid an hour-long commute and as a company it was a seductive thought that you could theoretically cut costs by reducing the floorplan of rented office space by 40 per cent.

If you ask individuals whether they want it then, of course they will say yes. For Gen Z, in particular, the pandemic caused people to reassess their lives and being able to work from home in a more leisurely fashion, if you have the space, is a no-brainer for many people.

As things have gone on, however, the mood is changing and I have my doubts. People have become used to working from home and in some cases they abuse it, either consciously or unconsciously. A friend of mine who works in the financial sector said, somewhat extremely, that when people did come into the office now, they were sloppy, unshaven and often late.

I am far less Attila the Hun about this, but it does raise serious questions. The main thing is interaction with your fellow workers. In the office, you can just zip down the corridor into another room and have a quick conversation. It is more efficient and productive: you do not have to set up a Zoom.

If you pay somebody to sit in front of a screen, there is no cultural glue. They are going to go to the highest bidder. Onboarding new people and exposing them to the culture of the company becomes very challenging. And can you really build a client or personal relationship on a screen? A lot of people believe that there is a need for personal contact to spark creative friction. There was a period in the past couple of years, after the initial Covid period, when every pitch we did virtually we seemed to lose, whereas those we did in person we seemed to win.

There is a significant backlash under way against hybrid working. Some investment banks have already said: come into the office or you're fired and recently AT&T did something similar. Last week the Centre for Cities think tank warned that the shift to hybrid working risked undermining London's position as a creative hub.

Others are doubling-down on hybrid working. Uber is cutting back a third of its San Francisco office space. I was talking to the chief executive of WeWork who resigned a few days ago and he said that the main reason their lettings were very strong was because they had moved to offering flexible leases of one to three years.

There is a spectrum of attitudes around the world towards flexible working. China is at one end with its unrelenting 996 pattern of work — nine to nine, six days a week — followed by India, which is also pretty full-on. At the other end is France, where legislation means that workers have the right to disconnect outside working hours.

In the UK, the Labour Party is proposing to ban emails and calls outside working hours if it wins the next election. That is not realistic because we operate in a global business environment, where you need to be able to talk to people 24/7. We are a global professional services business and this is all linked to the question about flexible working, because we have to be able to compete with China and India or we really are looking at the Decline and Fall.

After Brexit, we were promised that we would become Singapore on steroids, but that has not happened and in a way it shows that if you want to be one of the most dynamic economies, you have to work for it.

And that is where artificial general intelligence comes into the picture. The UK has a particular problem with lack of productivity: we have a tight labour market, but if companies feel that they have a high cost of labour, particularly in an inflationary environment, and that the balance of negotiating power is against them, then they are going to invest more in technology as an alternative. BT is planning to cut 55,000 jobs — up to 40 per cent of its workforce — by the end of the decade and says up to one fifth of these jobs could be replaced with AI.

Until now, many companies have been reluctant to force people to spend more time in the office because they are afraid they will lose people. That is something they may be more readily prepared to contemplate in future.

Sir Martin Sorrell is founder and executive chairman of the digital advertising and marketing services business S4 Capital

Case study

Toni Sinclair is a keen user of Canva (Richard Tyler writes). The English and media teacher at Calderglen High School in East Kilbride recently shared examples of teaching materials she had created using the software.

"I started using Canva at the beginning of my teaching career, during the 2020 lockdown," Sinclair, 33, said. "I saw someone share resources they had made on Canva on Twitter, which piqued my interest. I found it really simple to figure out and quickly started using it to create materials for teaching."

Her latest project is intended to help her pupils to identify and learn literary techniques such as repetition, imagery and word choice. She used extracts from Taylor Swift songs as examples and created posters to put on her classroom walls.

She is a fan of Canva's simplicity and the fact it is free for teachers. "It makes it simple to create eyecatching and engaging posters, slides and handouts. Our classrooms are where we spend the majority of our day in school and it's important to make these environments both educational and engaging."

Her senior school communications class also had made good use of Canva, she said, opening their own accounts and creating school newsletters. "It's also giving them real-life skills in media such as interviewing, editing and producing."

Her one request of Melanie Perkins, Canva's boss, was to provide more training so that teachers and students could understand all the functions available. Perkins said it was an area "we are investing in heavily" and noted Canva's Design School and its library of video tutorials.

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Business Equity prices

Automobiles & parts

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
1,847.51	Aston Martin Lag	264⅜	−3	...	-1.5

Banking & finance

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
4,039.82	**Abrdn**	201¾	−10	...	4.3
7,032.04	**Admiral**‡	2319	+70	...	11.8
10.81	ADVFN♦	23½	−1	...	4.1
1,307.97	AJ Bell	317⅜	−¾	...	29.7
51,498.47	Aon Corpn	25214	−1311⅛	...	61.5
79.19	Appreciate Group♦	42⅛	+⅛	...	18.3
141.59	Arbuthnot Bkg♦‡	942½	+15	...	20.8
3.51	Argo Group♦	9	...	...	4.1
1,625.05	Ashmore	228	−6	...	7.7
37,195.17	Aus New Z	1238⅜	−8⅞	...	9.6
11,059.63	**Aviva**	401¼	−12⅛	...	52.8
44,995.25	Banco Santander	276½	−2	...	6.6
1,474.31	Bank of Georgia	3180	−90	...	9.8
24,462.77	**Barclays**	157¼	−2	...	3.8
7.74	Blue Star Capital♦	⅛	...	...	3.1
122.33	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	327	+6	...	9.0
7.33	Braveheart Inv♦	11½	−¼	...	0.3
1,564.20	Brewin Dolphin	515	+1	...	28.1
1,774.41	Bridgepoint	218⅛	−2½	...	13.6
18.99	Cenkos Secs♦‡	33½	−3½	...	6.8
424.11	Chesnara‡	282	−4	...	15.6
11.94	City of Lon Gp♦	10	−14	...	-0.6
221.97	City Lon Inv Gp	438	−12	...	10.2
1,360.11	Close Bros	904½	−26½	...	6.7
491.36	CMC Markets	175½	−4⅜	...	5.3
10,573.54	Commerzbk	844¼	−5⅜	...	43.2
17,253.93	Deutsche Bk	845⅝	−3¼	...	9.9
2,165.78	Direct Line Ins	165⅛	+2½	...	6.8
102.54	Downing ONE VCT	57	...	...	7.7
6.11	Drumz♦	5	...	...	...
381.10	EFG-Hermes Hldg	65¼	...	...	4.2
48.25	EPE Special Opps♦	161½	+4	...	9.0
400.06	FBD	1124⅛	...	...	5.0
7.98	Fiske♦	67½	...	...	12.0
89.21	Frenkel Topping♦	70	+1½	...	40.7
369.57	Georgia Capital	840	−9	...	2.3
288.97	Gresham House♦‡	755	−20	...	30.3
182.86	H&T Group♦‡	417	−5	...	13.3
72.08	Hansard Global	52⅜	+4½	...	18.0
3,796.45	**Hargreaves Lansdown**	800⅜	−11⅜	...	14.2
129.11	Helios Under♦	167½	−5	...	...
121,869.94	**HSBC**‡	610¾	...	...	13.3
2,806.07	IG Group	685	−18½	...	6.9
1,038.23	Impax♦	783	−39	...	25.8
3,917.29	Intermed Capital	1348	+23	...	7.7
248.68	IPF	111	+4½	...	6.2
2,645.16	International Public P'ship‡	138⅜	−2⅜	...	17.7
2,762.10	Investec	422½	−16⅜	...	10.6
15.75	Investment Co	330	...	...	11.8
593.03	IP Group‡	57⅛	+¾	...	2.1
68.21	Jarvis Securities♦‡	152½	−2½	...	10.9
588.58	Jupiter Fund Mgmt	108	−11⅞	...	4.0
904.71	Just Group	87	−6⅜	...	...
1,506.76	Lancashire Holdings‡	617½	−15½	...	...
13,625.20	**Legal & Gen**‡	228	−7	...	7.0
1,438.66	Liberty Group	502⅝	−50034⅜	...	...
491.56	Liontrust	757	−59	...	9.4
62.84	Livermore Invs♦	38	−3	...	2.4
29,754.60	**Lloyds Banking Gp**	45½	−1⅛	...	6.3
19.62	LMS Capital‡	24¼	+1	...	10.5
46,843.47	**Lond Stk Ex Gp**	8484	+48	...	86.7
4,682.04	**M&G**	198¼	−2⅝	...	61.9
2,649.29	Man	220¾	+2⅞	...	8.8
27.04	Manx Fin♦	23½	−1	...	11.9
1.62	Marechale Cap♦	1⅝	+⅛	...	0.8
69,311.51	Marsh McLn	14010⅛	−629⅛	...	29.1
327.87	Mattioli Woods♦	635	−5	...	...
15.35	Metal Tiger♦	9	+1	...	3.5
177.79	Metro Bank	103	−1	...	-0.7
43,442.52	Nat Aust Bk	1384	−8⅞	...	13.7
25,351.34	**NatWest**	267½	−⅞	...	10.5
366.86	Numis♦‡	333½	−½	...	6.7
2,096.67	Onesavings Bank	493	−16½	...	6.5
285.55	PayPoint	393½	−28½	...	12.3
3.17	PCF Group♦	⅞	+¼	...	-0.4
5,562.81	**Phoenix**	556	−19¾	...	-6.4
571.19	Provident	225	+10	...	4.2
30,973.58	**Prudential**	1125	−53	...	18.2
19.45	Quantum Blockchain♦	1⅞	+⅜	...	...
1,149.26	Quilter	81¾	−2⅝	...	58.4
195.15	Randall & Quilter♦	52	−7⅞	...	77.6
1,236.95	Rathbone Grp	1950	−16	...	15.0
5.43	RiverFort Global Opps♦	⅝	...	...	2.0
52.09	Rockwood Strategic	2050	...	...	3.0
302.55	S & U	2490	−10	...	11.7
4.09	Sancus Lending Grp♦	⅝	...	...	-0.3
212.27	Schroder REIT	43⅜	−⅜	...	4.6
7,364.07	**Schroders**	456¾	−11½	...	2.1
6,098.55	**St James Place**‡	1112½	−32½	...	21.1
18,306.29	**Stand Chart**	649⅜	+15⅜	...	14.5
3.79	Starvest♦	6½	−1	...	-1.0
14.55	STM Group♦	24½	...	...	9.4
23,410.67	Sun Life Can	3989¾	−2⅞	...	10.2
40.63	Tavistock Inv♦	7¼	−½	...	1.2
1,317.04	TBC Bank Group‡	2395	−95	...	7.0
13.60	Tern♦	3½	−¾	...	2.6
27.01	Time Finance♦	29⅛	...	...	17.8
28.24	Volvere♦	1200	...	...	...
14.33	WH Ireland♦	22	+1	...	12.3
11.07	Walker Crips Grp	26	...	...	74.2
125,940.01	Wells Fargo	3356⅜	+110½	...	9.1
38,736.42	Westpac	1103⅞	−2	...	14.9
9.89	Worsley Investors Ltd	29¼	...	...	91.5
57,239.43	Zurich Fincl	38042⅞	−223⅜	...	14.8

Investment companies

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Forecast Yld%	Forecast P/E
18,862.80	**3i Group**	1938	+8½	...	11.1
2,896.18	3i Infrastructure	314	−11	...	-4.1
262.34	Abrdn Div I&G	87	−1	...	-26.2
1,054.84	Aberforth Smlr	1244	−30	...	-13.9
2,912.82	Alliance	1006	...	...	-6.5
440.18	Asia Dragon Tr	381	...	...	-13.8
3.99	Athelney Trust	185	...	...	-17.5
905.52	AVI Global Trust	190⅜	−2⅛	...	-10.7
136.43	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr	220	−8	...	-12.7
335.37	Baillie Gifford Eu Gr	93½	−1¾	...	-14.7
689.37	Baillie Gifford Jpn Tr	740	−24	...	-8.6
445.46	Baillie Gifford SN	142	−4⅜	...	-10.4
246.76	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	164	−5⅜	...	-14.2
1,261.87	Bankers	99¼	−⅞	...	-11.6
1,557.09	BH Macro	416	+3½	...	3.5
316.92	Biotech Growth	834	−6	...	-7.8
155.92	BlckRck Com Inc	115	−4½	...	-6.0
262.22	BlckRck Fro Inv	138½	+2½	...	-8.5
549.44	BlckRck Grt Euro	544	−13	...	-4.5
39.96	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	191	+3	...	-8.6
113.38	BlckRck Latin Am	385	+3	...	-14.5
146.82	BlckRck SustAm	183	−4	...	-4.8
631.93	BlckRck Smlr	1300	−16	...	-12.7
583.59	BlckRck Throgmorton	581	−15	...	-5.5
1,137.54	BlckRck Wld Min	595	−35	...	1.0
318.57	CT Cap&Inc	301	−11	...	-1.3
571.06	Balanced Comm Prop	81⅜	+1¾	...	-34.1
746.97	The Glbl Smaller	142½	−3½	...	-12.9
349.66	CT Priv Eq Ord	480	−24	...	-30.3
179.44	CT Real Estate	77¼	+14	...	-35.0
70.61	CT UK HIT	83	...	...	-6.5
27.79	CT UK HIT B	90½	−½	...	1.9
105.77	CT UK HIT UNIT	330	−4	...	-7.0
140.44	Brown Advsr US Sm	1175	−40	...	-13.6
450.41	Brunner	1055	−15	...	-12.2
1,874.96	Caledonia Inv	3430	−140	...	-30.3
286.51	Invesco BondInc	161½	−½	...	1.5
2,020.98	City of Lon IT	407	−8½	...	2.1
67.42	Crystal Amber Fd	81	+1	...	-33.3
30.82	Dunedin Entp	560	...	...	-8.1
1,087.82	Edinburgh IT	660	−16	...	-7.6
578.68	Edin Wwide	148½	−¾	...	-18.5
92.93	EP Global Opp	318	−12	...	-10.7
324.06	European Assets	90	−3½	...	-7.7
773.51	European Opp Tr	780	−1	...	-12.1
4,637.09	**F&C Invest Tr**	895	−8	...	-6.6
372.08	Fidlty Asian Val	518	...	...	-2.5
1,040.40	Fidelity China Sp	215	−9	...	-10.1
1,448.95	Fidlty Euro Val	354½	−4½	...	-4.7
231.82	Fidlty Jap Tru	179½	−2	...	-8.9
888.03	Fidlty Spec Val	274	−8½	...	-6.0
1,850.60	Fins Gwth & Inc	891	−13	...	-3.9
715.49	GCP Infrastructure	81⅛	−7¼	...	-21.5
533.76	Gen Emer Mkts	585⅞	−1	...	-14.3
26.51	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	31	−¾	...	-15.4
3,455.91	Greencoat UK Wind	149	−5	...	-8.3
66.40	Hansa Investment	166	−6	...	-45.1
128.00	Hansa Inv Co 'A'	160	−8½	...	-46.1
1,724.48	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	2180	−5	...	-43.9
329.79	Hend Euro Foc	155	−4	...	-12.9
218.71	Hend High Inc	168½	+1	...	-0.1
589.40	Hend Smlr	789	−26	...	-13.4
1,072.87	Herald	1780	+22	...	-14.9
1,814.89	HgCapital Trust	396½	+22½	...	-18.4
2,888.78	HICL Infra	142⅛	−9	...	-9.5
0.22	Highbridge Tactical	389	...	...	47.5
782.52	ICG Ent Tr	1150	+2	...	-39.6
1,248.94	Impax Env Mkts	413½	−2	...	-4.7
213.26	Invesco Asia Tr	319	−2	...	-12.7
286.51	Invesco BondInc	161½	−½	...	1.5
5.44	IPST Bal	131½	...	...	-11.8
58.31	IPST Gbl Eq	232	...	...	-13.0
1.14	IPST Managed	91	...	...	-16.7
106.77	IPST UK Eq	155	−7	...	-11.5
146.13	IP UKSmallerCos	432	...	...	-9.8
1,351.45	JPM American	737	+9	...	-4.4
329.73	JPM Asia	352	−1	...	-8.9
221.32	JPM Chinese	266	−7	...	-9.8
396.28	JPM Claverhs	664	−24	...	-4.3
1,223.11	JPM Em Mkts	106	+1½	...	-10.1
642.50	JPM Euro disc	408	−10	...	-14.2
379.72	JPM GEMI	128	−½	...	-9.8
1,825.57	JPM GG&I	464½	+½	...	0.7
607.88	JPM Indian	820	+14	...	-18.0
171.44	JPM Jap Sml Co	314½	−1½	...	-12.0
741.49	JPM Japan#	485½	−3½	...	-7.5
191.41	JPM Mid Cap	884	−26	...	-12.8
70.37	JPM Multi-Ass G&I	93	−1½	...	-2.2
55.20	ME & Africa Sec Plc"	05¼	+110⅝	...	...
209.18	JPM Smllr Co	268	−5	...	-13.2
128.58	Keystone IT	208	−1	...	-16.8
1,050.89	Law Debenture	806	−14	...	1.3
324.22	Lowland	120	−4	...	-9.3
106.00	Majedie	200	−10	...	-14.6
264.15	M Currie Port	352	+4	...	-0.9
53.27	Marwyn Val In	96	−½	...	-44.0
1,565.94	Mercantile IT	198⅛	−5¼	...	-13.6
811.70	Merchants	556	−16	...	1.1
439.91	Mid Wynd	695	+5	...	-2.0
2,271.79	Monks Inv Tst	987	−15	...	-11.0
265.58	Montanaro Eur Sml	140⅛	−1½	...	-12.6
956.93	Murray Income Trust	848	−19	...	-7.0
1,650.44	Murray Int	263½	−4½	...	0.5
95.35	Nb Global Floating	72	−1¼	...	-4.2
451.17	Pacific Assets	373	+10	...	-7.1
1,441.31	Pantheon Int	272	+1½	...	-40.5
5,314.64	**Pershing Sq**	2800	+68	...	-37.1
1,855.33	Personal Assets	474	−4½	...	-0.6
2,763.45	Polar Cap Tech	2195	+90	...	-14.3
25.99	Prem Glb & Inf	142½	−2	...	-12.9
2,945.53	Renewables Inf	118½	−2¾	...	-9.5
2,818.74	RIT Cap Ptnr	1856	−84	...	-18.8
278.38	Riverstone	574	+10	...	-49.5
431.85	Schroder TotRt	417	+1	...	-4.9
771.89	Schrd Asia Pac	493½	+2	...	-11.4
207.00	Schrod Inc Gwth	298	−12	...	-0.3
267.88	Schrod Jap Gwth	223	+4	...	-9.1
184.66	Schrod UKMid	534	−30	...	-13.4
124.54	Schroder UK PP Tr	13¾	−⅝	...	-49.1
932.40	Scot American	525	−17	...	0.1
9,380.37	**Scot Mtge**	666⅜	+18½	...	-19.7
214.04	Secs Tst Scot	216	−5	...	-0.9
1,375.57	Sequoia Eco	80	−2½	...	-11.0
692.59	Temple Bar	227	−2½	...	-5.9
1,711.13	Tplton Emg Mkt	148⅜	+1⅜	...	-14.2
0.88	Tiger Royal and Inv♦	⅛	...	...	45.8
907.62	TR Property	286	+2	...	-6.6
180.66	Troy Inc&Gth	70¾	−1¾	...	-2.2
120.31	Utilico Ord	143½	−3	...	-28.1
447.51	Utilico Emerging Mkt	222	−5	...	-14.4
1,125.61	Vietnam Ent Inv	548	−6	...	-16.8
1,501.79	Witan	228½	−4½	...	-8.5
1,992.32	Ww Health	3245	−55	...	-8.8



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Construction & property

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
62.33	Alumasc♦	172½	−1½	...	8.7
18.53	Aseana Props	9¼	...	...	-4.6
1,416.62	Assura	47¾	−3¾	...	9.5
6.06	Aukett Swanke♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.1
2,109.75	Balfour Beatty‡	372¾	−15	...	17.6
4,645.21	**Barratt Devs**	473¾	−25⅜	...	7.4
2,767.28	Bellway‡	2268	−198	...	6.8
4,276.23	**Berkeley**	3975	−259	...	10.3
2,058.60	Big Yellow Group	1117	−48	...	7.3
52.38	Billington Hldgs♦	405	−15	...	32.9
315.71	Boot (Henry)‡	236	−7	...	12.6
3,204.92	**Br Land**	345⅝	−10½	...	47.3
18.85	Caledonian Tst♦	160	...	...	31.9
98.47	Cap & Regnl‡	58⅛	+2½	...	-0.5
25.74	Cardiff Prop‡	2430	+60	...	26.4
40.31	Carecapital♦	7½	...	...	-0.8
65.93	Clarke T‡	149½	−4	...	10.7
1,148.53	Countryside Partner	229¾	+11	...	16.7
0.53	Craven House♦	13¾	...	...	-0.2
28,846.12	**CRH**	3928	−85	...	16.3
2,420.99	Derwent London‡	2156	−44	...	9.6
34.38	Dolphin Capital♦	3¾	...	...	-2.6
30.49	First Prop♦	27½	−½	...	...
3.84	Fletcher King♦	37½	...	...	...
112.68	Foxtons Group‡	37⅜	−¼	...	...
192.09	Galliford Try	180⅜	+2	...	40.0
786.13	Genuit Group	315½	−11	...	19.1
247.96	Gleeson (MJ)	425	−29	...	6.6
1,959.97	Grafton	819½	−48⅜	...	9.5
1,836.03	Grainger‡	247½	−9	...	15.3
1,244.97	Great Portland	490⅜	−11½	...	-6.1
1,237.66	Hammerson	24¾	−⅛	...	-2.6
388.12	Harworth Gp‡	120	−5	...	4.1
10.77	Heath (Samuel)♦	425	...	...	8.8
315.17	Helical PLC	255½	−31	...	6.1
45.04	Highcroft Invs‡	865	...	...	3.7
636.40	Ibstock	162	−5	...	21.0
932.66	James Halstead♦‡	215½	+3½	...	22.9
512.35	Keller	704	−2	...	8.1
10,003.05	Kingspan Group	5499¼	−117⅛	...	21.6
4,441.81	**Land Sec**	599	−29⅛	...	...
259.00	Life Science Reit	74	−1	...	...
10.24	Lon & Assoc	12	−1	...	-1.6
1,696.60	Londonmetric Property	172½	−12⅞	...	3.6
37.10	Macau Prop Op	60	+½	...	-7.7
743.22	Marshalls	293¾	−5⅜	...	10.7
88.04	Michelmersh♦	92½	+½	...	14.7
866.55	Morgan Sindall	1830	−26	...	8.9
432.79	Mountview	11100	...	...	13.8
257.67	NewRiver REIT	83	−1½	...	-2.9
98.55	Palace Capital	227	−13	...	10.8
52.42	Panther Securities♦	300	...	...	2.7
3,916.04	**Persimmon**	1226	−81	...	4.9
4.00	Pires Investments♦	2	...	...	-4.4
2.06	Plaza Cent	30	...	...	...
1,337.84	Primary Health Properties	100	−5½	...	10.2
51.80	Real Estate Invs♦	30	−½	...	3.9
1,616.80	Redrow	488¾	−51⅛	...	6.0
2,013.29	Safestore	923½	−25	...	5.2
1,328.62	Savills	919½	+2	...	9.2
7.27	Secure Property♦	5⅝	...	...	14.8
9,633.92	**Segro**	787⅛	−20¾	...	2.3
489.76	SIG	41⅜	+⅛	...	...
402.41	SigmaRoc♦	58	−2½	...	...
923.64	Sirius Real Estate	78½	−1	...	6.1
66.35	Smart (J)‡	164½	...	...	4.5
81.03	Steppe Cement♦	37	−¼	...	8.5
4,084.74	**Taylor Wimpey**	115⅝	−8¼	...	7.6
68.81	Town Centre‡	142	−5	...	5.6
1,898.98	Travis Perkins	893½	−27⅜	...	8.7
2,580.85	Tritax Big Box Reit‡	138	−5¾	...	2.5
484.08	Tritax Eurobox‡	60	−3	...	...
532.91	Tyman‡	271½	+6	...	10.7
3,547.04	**Unite**‡	886	−26½	...	10.3
2,558.33	Vistry Group‡	740	−86½	...	6.4
424.86	Warehouse REIT	100	−5⅛	...	2.3
955.51	Workspace Grp	498½	+21⅛	...	-7.4
18.20	Wynnstay Props♦	675	+10	...	4.8

Consumer goods

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
0.93	Agriterra♦	1¼	...	...	-0.1
15.09	Airea♦	36½	+1	...	13.5
325.02	Anglo-Eastern	820	−60	...	7.5
109.07	Animalcare♦	181½	−3½	...	...
14,456.77	**AB Foods**	1861	−34	...	30.7
527.28	Bakkavor Group‡	91	−4	...	9.4
571.35	Barr (AG)‡	510	−10	...	18.1
24.72	Bidstack Group♦	1⅞	...	...	-1.5
9.36	Brand Architekts♦	33½	+1	...	-1.4
59,709.83	**Brit Amer Tob**	2670	+3½	...	9.0
2,318.11	Britvic‡	897½	−15½	...	20.3
8,377.50	**Burberry**	2215	−75	...	19.0
558.03	C&C Grp	142	+11	...	-8.4
6.81	Capital Metals♦	3½	−¼	...	-0.9
136.69	Carr's Grp‡	145¼	+4¼	...	17.9
58.53	Character Grp♦	303	−13	...	5.4
156.72	Churchill China♦‡	1425	+45	...	...
8,915.93	**Coca Cola HBC**‡	2422	−116	...	19.3
54.46	Colefax♦	752½	...	...	13.3
1,703.05	Cranswick	3170	+24	...	16.7
562.20	Devro	329	+½	...	17.8
78,705.26	**Diageo**	3498	−50	...	26.9
3.76	Distil♦	½	...	...	13.7
420.11	Evans (M.P.)♦‡	780	−38	...	6.6
121.26	Finsbury Food♦	93	...	...	11.0
3,105.42	Games Workshop	9435	−265	...	25.9
3,186.85	Glanbia	1184	−31¼	...	29.2
376.05	Greencore	75¾	−½	...	15.1
193.83	Headlam‡	240	−31	...	10.3
654.65	Hilton Food	732	−7	...	15.2
39.07	Hornby♦	23	...	...	...
15,934.54	**Imperial Brands**‡	1735½	−52	...	5.8
2.57	J Lewis Hford♦	1¼	...	...	7.7
14,479.88	Kerry Gp	8177¼	+56⅜	...	22.6
53.09	McBride	30½	−1⅛	...	-5.4
153.20	Mulberry Group♦	255	+5	...	10.5
364.76	Nichols♦	1000	−20	...	...
154.44	Norcros	173	+3	...	5.4
360.14	Origin Ents♦	325½	+4¼	...	10.2
0.92	Pittards♦	6⅜	...	...	3.0
59.61	Portmeirion♦‡	426	−81½	...	18.1
16.08	Provexis♦	⅝	...	...	0.3
825.72	PZ Cussons	192½	−4½	...	22.2
39.45	REA	90	−5¾	...	-7.1
1.14	Real Gd Fd♦	1⅛	...	...	0.1
13.13	Tandem♦‡	240	...	...	3.4
428.94	Treatt	704	+4	...	28.2
0.79	Ukrproduct Gp♦	2	−¼	...	-1.3
...	Unilever (NV)	...	...	...	...
105,104.07	**Unilever**‡	4169	−102	...	21.4
565.80	Victoria♦	492	+4½	...	...

Engineering

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
0.31	Ass Br Eng#	15	...	...	-3.5
252.66	Avon Rubber	835	−156	...	...
1,559.26	Babcock	308⅜	−10½	...	-1.9
29,021.31	**BAE**	950⅜	−35⅛	...	17.3
18.00	Braime A N/V♦‡	1250	−50	...	14.1
25.20	Braime Group♦‡	1750	...	...	19.7
14.83	Caffyns	550	...	...	7.9
7.33	Cap XX Ld♦	1¼	...	...	-2.6
164.65	Castings	378	+1	...	18.2
3.90	Chamberlin♦	3	−¼	...	-0.2
26.46	Checkit♦	24½	−2	...	-2.9
205.22	Cohort♦	495	−4	...	44.0
112.50	Crestchic Plc♦	399	...	...	...
86.88	Dewhurst♦	1075	...	...	12.3
76.34	Dialight	230	+1	...	...
3,240.70	Electrolux 'B'	1178⅞	−49½	...	8.9
15.67	Feedback♦	117½	−1	...	...
137.79	Gooch Hsego♦	550	−24	...	40.7
336.04	Goodwin	4370	−60	...	24.1
9,092.51	**Halma**	2395	−103	...	34.6
1,166.40	Hill & Smith	1456	+94	...	34.2
3.21	Holders Tech♦‡	76	...	...	4.6
2.94	Image Scan♦	2⅛	...	...	12.6
4,196.40	IMI	1609	−54	...	21.9
1.32	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...	...	...
592.85	Judges Scientific♦	9300	−80	...	46.9
11.73	LPA♦	87	+6½	...	...
6,261.19	Meggitt	798¾	+¾	...	...
6,419.51	**Melrose**	475	−9	...	...
813.30	Morgan Advanced	285	−6	...	12.0
52.21	Mpac♦	255	+15	...	6.6
73.34	MS Intl♦	446	−20	...	63.7
1,552.48	Oxford Inst	2690	−55	...	36.7
...	Philips El nv	...	...	...	...
4.54	PipeHawk♦	12½	...	...	26.6
16.24	Pressure Tech♦	42	−2½	...	-3.4
2,774.70	Renishaw	3812	−86	...	21.7
64.13	Renold♦	28⅜	−¾	...	10.1
12,471.90	**Rolls-Royce**	149	−6⅞	...	...
1.69	Ross Gp	⅝	...	...	-1.6
2,802.96	Rotork	325½	−16½	...	35.3
143.59	SDI Group♦	138	−7	...	22.7
721.40	Senior‡	172	−6	...	30.0
198.72	Severfield	64⅛	+⅛	...	11.4
7.96	Six Hundred♦	6¾	−1⅞	...	39.4
5,782.87	SKF B	1357½	−58⅛	...	10.0
3.15	Slingsby (HC)♦	300	...	...	4.9
5,765.98	**Smiths**	1642	−69	...	26.1
126.27	Solid State♦	1115	−10	...	26.8
184.16	Somero Enter♦	330	+5	...	7.3
3,872.93	Spectris‡	3701	−139	...	12.1
8,184.34	**Spirax-Sarco**	11095	−140	...	34.9
86.98	Surface Trsfms♦	36	+½	...	...
5.29	Tanfield♦	3¼	...	...	-9.0
429.07	Thorpe FW♦	366	+4	...	25.4
17.14	TP Group♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.3
13.48	Transense Tech♦	86	−1	...	63.2
2,513.35	Ultra Electrncs	3500	+8	...	37.4
1,112.52	Vesuvius‡	410⅛	−10⅜	...	10.9
307.07	Videndum	659	−61	...	12.0
430.38	Volex♦	270½	−3½	...	14.7
4,500.37	**Weir**‡	1733½	−78	...	29.2
413.60	XP Power	2095	−105	...	11.1
10.42	Zytronic♦	102½	...	...	34.1

Health

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
2,810.87	Abcam♦	1226	−41	...	...
498.97	AdvancedMedical♦‡	230	−18	...	36.1
42.44	Allergy Therap♦#	6¼	...	...	-7.3
47.56	Angle♦	18¼	−2	...	-2.4
44.16	Anpario♦	183½	−26½	...	9.6
182,635.18	**AstraZeneca**	11784	−226	...	...
142.66	Circassia Group♦	34	−¾	...	34.0
4,234.90	**Convatec**	207⅛	−19	...	48.3
23.95	Creighton	35	+2	...	6.7
3,575.96	Dechra Pharma	3140	−510	...	46.8
9.22	Deltex Medical♦	1¼	−⅛	...	-7.6
99.20	e-Therapeutics♦	17	+4⅝	...	...
76.86	Eco Animal Hlth♦	113½	+1	...	13.7
125.23	EKF Diagnostics♦	27½	+2½	...	7.8
120.54	Futura Medical♦	41⅛	−1½	...	...
1,645.75	Genus	2502	−16	...	44.5
57,010.32	**GSK**‡	1392⅛	−31½	...	16.0
1.73	Gunsynd♦	⅜	...	...	3.7
30,474.09	**Haleon**	330	−10	...	...
4,091.60	Hikma Pharms	1851½	+25½	...	13.8
1,844.86	Hutchmed China♦	213	+7	...	...
109.44	Immunodiag Sys♦	378	...	...	...
10.04	ImmuPharma♦	3	−⅛	...	-0.9
2,030.91	Indivior	1473	−46	...	84.3
29.68	Inspiration Health♦	43½	−½	...	6.7
9.43	IXICO♦	19½	−½	...	6.2
3,693.59	Mediclinic	501	+1	...	31.3

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
4.09	N4 Pharma♦	1¾	...	...	-2.0
CHF188.455bn	Novartis	CHF88.91	-1.60	...	10.1
5.94	Omega Diags♦	2½	...	...	-0.9
6.12	Ovoca Bio♦	7½	-1½	...	-2.1
428.08	Oxford Biomedica	441½	-5	...	19.8
2.09	Physiomics♦	2⅛	-½	...	-8.2
14.79	Proteome Scies♦	5	...	...	...
45,958.44	**Reckitt Benckiser**	6416	-86	...	...
9.10	RUA Life Sciences♦	41	...	...	-3.9
78.28	Sareum Hldgs♦	115	-10	...	...
10,703.23	**Smith & Neph**	1225½	-56½	...	27.8
925.41	Spire Hcare‡	229	-10	...	...
16.92	Synairgen♦	8⅜	-1¼	...	-0.3
35.88	Tissue Regenix♦	51	-3½	...	...
38.35	Totally♦	19¾	-⅞	...	31.3
160.68	Tristel♦	340	+5	...	70.1
9.46	ValiRx♦	9¼	-½	...	...

Industrials

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
160.15	Accsys Tech♦	73	+5¾	...	...
36,399.08	BASF	4072⅛	-60¼	...	8.0
46,393.36	Bayer DM50	4722¼	-16⅜	...	55.1
4.41	Biome Tech♦	117½	-2½	...	-3.9
8.85	Byotrol♦	1⅞	+¼	...	...
4.98	Camb Gbl Timber♦	6¾	...	...	-9.0
1,086.51	Coats Grp	68	-4	...	15.1
8,710.46	**Croda**‡	6238	-80	...	27.1
84.08	Cropper (James)♦	880	-50	...	26.8
628.16	Elementis	107	-8⅜	...	...
7.36	Hardide♦	12½	+¼	...	-2.4
3,284.73	**Johnson Math**	1790½	-98	...	22.5
6,227.23	**Mondi**	1282½	-3	...	9.8
15.66	Robinson♦	93½	...	...	...
4,308.66	**DS Smith**	312¾	-4¾	...	17.7
4,721.17	Swire Pacific	551	-27⅜	...	...
12.94	Symph Environ♦	7	+⅛	...	...
460.09	Synthomer	98⅜	-10½	...	2.0
41,296.37	Takeda Pharm	2609⅞	+32¼	...	14.6
33.54	Velocys♦	2⅜	...	...	-3.0
1,353.14	Victrex‡	1555	+19	...	18.5
96.42	Wynnstay Group♦	427½	-12½	...	9.8
180.38	Zotefoams‡	371	-8	...	22.3

Leisure

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
324.46	888 Hldgs	72⅜	-4½	...	5.3
292.25	Accesso Tech♦	706	+12	...	18.5
53.18	Best of the Best♦	565	-10	...	6.3
10,385.97	Carnival	797⅛	+26½	...	-1.2
120.55	Celtic♦	127½	...	...	12.6
13.73	Cineworld	1	-⅛	...	...
1,185.40	Domino's Pizza	283	-13	...	14.4
8,255.69	**Entain**	1402	-73	...	31.3
28,381.65	**Flutter Ent**	16085	-315	...	...
91.54	Gaming Realms♦	31¼	+⅜	...	...
14.58	Heavitree♦	290	...	...	17.4
5.53	Heavitree A♦	110	...	...	6.6
2.80	Hermes Pacific♦	120	...	...	...
9,184.53	**InterContinental Hotels**	5352	-10	...	50.1
8.46	Minoan Gp♦	1⅛	...	...	-8.1
1,241.36	Mitch & Butlers	207¾	-⅛	...	...
173.61	On The Beach	104⅛	+2⅛	...	-5.4
461.71	PPHE Hotels‡	1090	-5	...	-8.8
463.75	Rank Grp	99	-3	...	13.3
351.16	Restaurant Gp	45⅞	-2⅛	...	-8.6
14.43	Rotala♦	46½	...	...	...
18.95	Sportech♦	18⅞	-¼	...	...
2,094.87	SSP	263	+1⅜	...	-5.1
4.39	Tasty♦	3	...	...	4.0
16.81	Tintra♦	102½	+10	...	-1.8
1,793.04	Tui	531	+1¾	...	-5.5
5.51	Webis Holdings♦	1⅜	...	...	...
917.34	Wetherspoon JD	712½	-24	...	-6.6
6,525.68	**Whitbread**‡	3257	-49	...	...
690.12	Young & Co - A♦	1180	+25	...	...
465.54	Young & Co - N/V♦	796	+41	...	...

Media

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
18.78	7digital Gp♦	⅝	...	...	-5.7
7.49	Aeorema Comms♦	78½	-1½	...	21.7
28.34	Altitude Group♦	40	-4	...	...
9.70	Arcontech Grp♦	72½	...	...	10.0
1,012.62	Ascential	230	-13½	...	...
5,733.94	**Auto Trader**	626⅜	-12½	...	30.9
343.16	Bloomsbury Pub	420½	-14½	...	17.3
6.56	Bonhill Group♦	5½	+¾	...	...
28.92	Catalyst Media♦	137½	-2½	...	...
0.40	Catenae♦	⅛	...	...	-0.2
569.16	Daily Mail‡	270	...	...	10.3
2.54	DCD Media♦#	100	-50	...	5.0
65.36	Ebiquity♦	48	...	...	...
1,595.85	Euromoney In Inv	1460	+2	...	...
937.86	Future	776	-120	...	13.3
1,585.26	GlobalData♦	1340	+35	...	66.3
351.72	Hyve Group	120½	...	...	...
144.54	IG Design Grp♦	147½	-5	...	21.6
9,946.99	**Informa**	705½	-22⅛	...	...
2,889.44	ITV	71½	-3⅞	...	7.7
4.34	Jaywing♦	4⅝	...	...	...
5.72	Live Company Gp♦	2⅛	...	...	-0.4
0.84	Mediazest♦	...	...	...	-6.0
10.30	Merit Grp♦	43	-1	...	...
0.27	Mirada♦	3	...	...	-0.1
45.96	Mission Group♦	50½	...	...	8.5
1,356.11	Moneysupermarket	252½	-8¾	...	25.7
5,637.42	News Corp A	1479¾	-26¾	...	24.1
2,864.53	News Corp B	1487⅞	-28⅜	...	24.2
787.05	Next 15 Comms♦	799	-11	...	...
5,730.57	**Pearson**	800⅛	-30	...	38.2
404.49	Photo-Me	107	+1½	...	18.6
4.19	Primorus Inv♦	3	...	...	5.4
68.49	Quarto	167½	+1	...	9.3
231.56	Reach‡	72⅞	-3¼	...	81.0
14.81	REACT Grp♦	1⅜	...	...	20.0
47,233.94	**Relx**‡	2487	-14	...	32.8
4,332.27	**Rightmove**‡	529⅛	-24⅛	...	29.9
1.95	SpaceandPeople♦	100	+7½	...	...
114.94	STV Group‡	246	-6	...	6.0
22.82	System1 Group♦	180	-5	...	8.6
6,858.17	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2548⅞	+7⅝	...	13.9
5,577.95	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2367⅝	+22⅝	...	12.9
2.93	Vela Tech♦	...	...	...	6.0
256.56	Wilmington	291	-7	...	18.5
9,381.46	**WPP**	873	-21⅜	...	16.6
24.53	Zinc Media♦	112½	+7½	...	-7.1

Natural resources

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
2.01	ADM Energy♦	⅝	...	...	...
2.67	Advance Energy♦#	⅛	...	...	-0.1
130.59	AFC Energy♦	17½	-⅞	...	...
...	Afentra PLC	...	...	...	...
7.84	Alba Mineral Res♦	...	...	...	-2.2
20.81	Alien Metals♦	⅜	...	...	...
2,120.64	Alumina	73	-2	...	15.2
42.11	Aminex	1	...	...	-5.8
25.07	Amur Mins Corp♦	1¾	...	...	...
12,051.08	Anglo Amer Plat	4542½	+4495½	...	3.2
31,011.74	**Anglo American**	2318½	-31½	...	4.5
121.10	Anglo Asian Mng♦	106	-1½	...	9.2
13,698.48	**Antofagasta**	1389½	-27	...	14.3
43.21	Arc Minerals♦	3½	...	...	2.5
28.66	Ariana Res♦	2½	...	...	3.3
1.68	Arkle Resources♦	⅜	...	...	-1.4
7.34	Armadale Cap♦	1¼	...	...	...
22.42	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	1	...	...	...
465.80	Atalaya Mine♦	333	+4	...	4.2
20.31	Baron Oil♦	...	...	...	...
21.41	Beowulf Mining♦	1¾	-⅛	...	-8.0
3.01	Bezant Res♦	...	...	...	-0.8
115,751.29	BHP Group	2287	-65½	...	10.0
16.95	Border & Sthn Pet♦	2¼	-⅜	...	...
78.30	Bougainville	19½	...	...	...
3.52	BowLeven♦	1	...	...	-1.3
83,751.72	**BP**‡	476⅞	-4½	...	17.3
17.01	Cadence Min♦	9¾	...	...	0.9
4.15	Cadogan Petrol	1⅝	...	...	23.6
200.52	Caledonia Mining♦	1045	-10	...	10.2
291.32	Capricorn Energy	197⅜	+2⅜	...	1.5
147.41	Caspian Sunrise♦	6½	+⅜	...	...
1,151.48	Centamin	99⅜	-6⅛	...	15.4
355.26	Cent Asia Metals♦	195½	-4⅜	...	5.7
75.86	Chaarat Gold♦	11	+⅜	...	...
150.53	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	15½	-⅝	...	...
6.86	China Nonferr Gold♦	1¾	...	...	...
5.23	Clontarf Energy♦	...	...	...	-2.2
49.72	Condor Gld♦	27½	-2	...	...
2.94	Corcel♦	¼	...	...	-0.3
778.42	DRD Gold	90	+89	...	10.6
4.67	ECR Minerals♦	⅜	-⅛	...	-2.5
1.50	Edenville Energy♦	5½	-½	...	-0.3
8.12	Empyrean Energy♦	1	-⅛	...	-7.3
4,971.49	**Endeavour**	2010	+6	...	29.9
291.19	EnQuest	15⅜	-1⅛	...	0.9
78.61	Eurasia Mining♦	2¾	...	...	...
13.19	Europa Oil&Gas♦	1⅜	+⅛	...	12.5
590.06	Ferrexpo	98⅝	-5½	...	0.7
4,834.02	**Fresnillo**‡	656	-8¾	...	15.5
43.86	G3 Exploration#	28	...	...	-2.6
20.67	Galantas Gold♦	18	-½	...	-3.0
5.72	GCM Resources♦	3	+¼	...	-2.5
32.62	Gem Diamonds	23⅜	...	...	2.4
8.92	Getech♦	13¼	-1¾	...	-3.1
52,790.52	**Glencore**‡	422½	-12¼	...	15.4
1.79	Global Petrol♦	⅛	...	...	-2.1
10,700.42	Gold Fields	1197½	+1185¼	...	18.4
13.00	Goldplat♦	7¾	-¼	...	5.8
14.96	Goldstone Res♦	3	-¼	...	...
365.95	Greatld Gld♦	7⅛	...	...	...
164.68	Griffin Mining♦	85⅜	-3	...	9.4
289.40	Gulf Keystone	130	-1¾	...	8.1
24.49	Harland & Wolff Gp♦	14⅛	-⅜	...	1.1
370.67	Hochschild	72	-10⅝	...	6.9
376.29	Horizonte Minrls♦	140	...	...	...
332.35	Hunting PLC	201½	-1	...	-5.1
18.84	IGas Energy♦	14¾	-1¼	...	-0.7
1.72	Independ Res♦	...	...	...	...
365.95	Indus Gas♦	200	+5	...	20.7
13.17	Ironveld♦	¼	...	...	-5.2
422.56	ITM Power♦	68½	-⅛	...	...
195.78	Jubilee Metals♦	7⅛	-⅜	...	5.9
2.28	Karel Diamd Res♦	2⅝	...	...	...
33.09	KEFI Gold and Copper♦	¾	...	...	-3.4
412.03	Kenmare Res	434½	-17	...	5.0
37.60	Lamprell#	8⅞	...	...	-0.7
12.83	Landore Res♦	11⅛	-1⅞	...	-2.5
1.59	Lansdowne O&G♦	⅛	-¼	...	-4.0
3.42	Leeds Group♦	12½	...	...	-2.0
23.00	Lexington Gold♦	8⅛	...	...	...
37.47	MC Mining♦	9⅜	+⅛	...	-1.9
33.42	Metals Explorn♦	1½	-⅛	...	2.7
1.49	Nostra Terra♦	⅛	...	...	-1.2
17.02	Nostrum O&G#	10	+¼	...	...
4,549.45	Oil Search	218⅞	+5⅜	...	60.3
13.60	Oilex♦#	⅛	...	...	-3.7
5.27	Oriole Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-1.8
3.54	Ormonde Mining♦#	¾	...	...	-3.1
8.01	Orosur Mining♦	4¼	-⅜	...	-6.3
258.73	Pan African Res♦	13½	-3	...	4.4
147.15	Pantheon Res♦	16⅝	-¼	...	...
23.22	Parkmead Grp♦	21¼	+¼	...	-1.8
3.00	Pathfinder Mins♦	⅜	...	...	-3.9
132.06	Petra Diamonds	68	+2¼	...	2.2
2.40	Petrel Resources♦	1¼	...	...	-6.8
53.47	Petro Matad♦	4¾	-1¼	...	...
374.31	Petrofac	71⅝	-⅝	...	-1.8
1.18	Petroneft Res♦	...	...	...	-0.3
47.51	Petropavlovsk#	1⅛	+⅛	...	1.6
181.13	Phoenix Global♦	6½	-½	...	-1.6
2.91	Plexus Holdings♦	2⅞	+¼	...	-0.7
852.53	Polymetal Intl	180	-50	...	...
290.21	Porvair‡	626	-18	...	24.0
24.94	Prospex Energy♦	8¾	-½	...	...
147.62	Proton Motor Power S♦	9½	-¾	...	-1.7
34.84	Providence Res♦	3¼	-⅛	...	29.0
21.36	Quadrise Fuels Intl♦	1½	...	...	-5.8
8.71	Rambler Met&Min♦#	5⅜	...	...	0.1
13.00	Reabold Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-2.6
2.84	Red Rock Res♦	⅛	...	...	-0.8
21,110.07	Rio Tinto Ltd	5686⅝	-116½	...	5.9
79,891.56	**Rio Tinto**	4925	-23½	...	5.1
124.85	San Leon Energy♦	27¾	+1¾	...	10.3
3.60	Scirocco Energy♦	⅜	...	...	...
20.64	Serabi Gold♦	27¼	-4¾	...	3.7
871.08	Serica Energy♦	227⅜	+1½	...	...
120.92	Shanta Gold♦‡	11½	+¼	...	7.2
160,541.49	**Shell**‡	2352½	-56½	...	12.4
31.89	Sound Energy♦	1⅝	...	...	10.7
3.77	Sunrise Resources♦	...	...	...	...
2.58	Tertiary Minerals♦	⅛	...	...	-3.4
6.58	Thor Mining♦	¼	...	...	-1.7
120,537.08	Total Eng SE	4947⅛	+47⅝	...	11.3
1.85	Tower Resources♦	...	...	...	-0.9
371.63	Tullow Oil	25⅝	+⅞	...	2.5
12.87	UK Oil & Gas♦	...	...	...	-2.0
2.47	URU Metals♦	150	...	...	4.8
19.32	Vast Res♦	⅝	...	...	-0.1
9.99	Victoria Oil&Gas♦#	3¾	-⅛	...	-1.8
3.89	W Resources♦#	2⅝	...	...	-0.3
3.10	Westmount Engy♦	2⅛	...	...	-0.4
970.65	Wood Grp (J)	140¼	+⅜	...	-5.7
11.93	Woodbois♦	⅜	...	...	1.8
13.02	Xtract Resources♦	1½	-⅛	...	-2.7
56.68	Zephyr Energy♦	3½	-½	...	-4.5

Professional & support services

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
1,249.81	4imprint Grp‡	4450	-250	...	75.1
226.45	Andrews Sykes♦‡	537½	-2½	...	17.1
21,573.83	**Ashtead**	4921	-57	...	23.9
1.26	Asimilar Group♦	1	-¼	...	...
74.74	AssetCo♦	53	-½	...	0.3
55.94	Avisen♦	50½	...	...	...
191.25	Begbies Traynor♦	123½	-8½	...	...
125.68	Blancco Tech♦	166	-5	...	59.5
10,786.77	**Bunzl**‡	3194	+57	...	24.2
553.12	Capita	32¾	+⅝	...	2.5
8.19	CEPS♦	39	...	...	-8.8
32.50	Christie Group♦	122½	-10	...	52.1
38,559.92	**Compass**	2216	-19	...	53.9
16.94	CPPGroup♦	191½	+1	...	...
7.08	Croma Security♦	47½	...	...	6.8
4,650.99	**DCC**‡	4710	-266	...	15.5
76.22	De La Rue	39	-3	...	5.1
3,959.38	Diploma‡	2954	-118	...	52.8
758.32	Discoverie	787	-43	...	64.5
17.24	Driver Group♦	33	...	...	15.7
537.49	Essentra‡	182⅜	-9½	...	20.4
25,993.68	**Experian**	2828	+15	...	36.2
24,306.27	Ferguson	11870	+5	...	17.5
34.30	FIH Group♦	274	+21	...	...
11.45	Grafenia♦	10	...	...	-7.4
126.86	Hargeaves Serv♦	390	-2	...	4.0
316.28	Impellam Grp♦	702½	+32½	...	38.3
18.90	Ince G♦#	5⅛	...	...	2.9
6,864.05	**Intertek**‡	4253	+122	...	23.9
1,440.56	IWG	143	-4½	...	-5.4
468.41	Johnson Srvce♦	111	-9½	...	69.3
26.76	Journeo♦	165	-4½	...	37.0
352.14	Kier Gp	78⅞	-3	...	7.7
248.07	Latham (J)♦	1230	...	...	6.7
276.14	Lok'n Store♦‡	918	+68	...	27.8
343.28	Lon Security♦	2800	...	...	15.4
270.35	LSL Prop Services‡	260	-17	...	7.2
169.42	Macfarlane‡	107	-3	...	12.4
15.80	Maintel Hldgs♦	110	+5	...	3.3
4.03	Malvern Intl♦	16½	...	...	...
266.77	Mears Group	241	-2	...	20.9
558.16	Menzies (John)	607	+1	...	48.0
1,214.70	Mitie Gp	89⅜	-3	...	44.7
5.31	MobilityOne♦	5	-⅜	...	3.7
5.02	Newmark Sec♦	53½	...	...	...
4.02	Norm Broadbent♦	6½	+1¼	...	...
9.27	Northern Bear♦	49½	-½	...	5.0
126.98	NWF Grp♦	257	-8	...	...
1,452.49	PageGroup‡	442	-1½	...	11.9
36.98	PCI-PAL♦	56½	+5	...	...
4.24	Petards♦	7½	+½	...	13.6
1.60	PHSC♦	13½	-½	...	24.5
25.72	PowerHouse Egy♦	⅝	...	...	-1.1
169.59	Record	85⅛	-3⅛	...	23.4
861.84	Redde Northgate	376	-11½	...	9.4
580.05	Renew Hldgs♦	733	-12	...	18.1
430.94	Renewi	537	-56	...	11.3
15,946.81	**Rentokil**	632¾	-5⅛	...	44.8
353.26	Restore♦	258	-4	...	30.7
353.40	Ricardo	568	-4	...	50.7
319.82	Robert Walters‡	428	+3	...	9.7
4.66	Roebuck Food Grp♦	15½	+½	...	2.3
613.30	RPS Group	221	...	...	...
3,797.53	**RS Group**	803⅛	-55¾	...	20.3
2.49	RTC Group♦	17	...	...	...
932.42	RWS Hldgs♦	239⅜	-9⅛	...	21.9
180.87	Science Group♦‡	400	...	...	18.4
1,613.56	Serco‡	145½	-3½	...	5.9
131.28	Smiths News	53	+2⅛	...	5.1
7,716.02	**Smurfit Kappa**	2966	-24	...	13.5
61.42	Staffline Gp♦	37	-⅞	...	28.5
513.66	SThree‡	382	-20½	...	12.3
19.13	Synectics♦	107½	...	...	...
36.79	Thruvision Group♦	25	-½	...	-9.0
82.66	Tribal♦	38⅞	-1¼	...	12.1
22.57	Vianet♦	76½	-1	...	...
261.00	Vp	650	...	...	16.0
3.80	Westminster♦	1⅛	...	...	-1.4

Real estate

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
2,314.51	Shaftesbury Cap	118½	-1⅛	...	34.8

Retailing

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
375.56	AO World	65	-2	...	...
4,628.56	**B&M European**	462	-23⅝	...	10.7
124.33	Brown (N)♦	27	+1	...	7.9
317.30	Card Factory	92½	-1⅛	...	...
1,498.97	CVS Group♦	2096	-66	...	58.7
280.97	DFS Furn	120	+1¾	...	6.3
2,222.48	Dunelm	1102	-53	...	14.8
3,141.43	**Frasers Group**	672	-93½	...	29.8
2,728.67	Greggs‡	2672	-72	...	23.3
439.17	Halfords	200½	+⅞	...	6.6
3,654.69	Howden Joinery	663½	-15½	...	12.5
3,163.63	Inchcape‡	766	-27	...	25.8
4.84	IQ-AI	2⅝	...	...	-7.5
7,826.53	**JD Sports**	151	-8¼	...	18.2
4,478.48	**Kingfisher**‡	231⅛	-9¼	...	5.8
319.45	Lookers‡	83½	+⅞	...	5.3
3,527.32	Marks & Spencer	179½	+17⅞	...	...
32.84	Mothercare♦	5¾	-¼	...	-3.6
77.70	Naked Wines♦	105	+2⅛	...	...
8,220.73	**Next**	6400	-194	...	12.2
3,364.12	**Ocado**	407	+13	...	...
247.82	Pendragon	17⅝	...	...	5.5
1,728.88	Pets at Home	357¾	-26⅛	...	14.6
156.34	Saga	111⅜	-3⅜	...	...
6,487.98	**Sainsbury's**	275	-6	...	23.1
1,992.48	WH Smith	1522	-127	...	...
57.09	Sosandar♦	23	-2	...	...
6.83	Stanley Gbbns♦	1½	...	...	-1.6
100.06	Studio Retail#	115	-6	...	2.4
209.59	Ted Baker	109¾	-⅛	...	...
19,178.80	**Tesco**‡	263¾	-2⅞	...	13.4
106.21	Topps Tiles	54	+3	...	9.7

Technology

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
97.69	Access Intell♦	76½	-1½	...	...
14.91	Aferian plc♦	17½	-2¾	...	3.1
470.06	Alfa Financial‡	159	+14	...	24.8
32.89	Allied Minds	13¾	+4¼	...	-1.2
177.75	Aptitude Software‡	310	-33	...	34.8
161.16	Bango♦	210	+10	...	...
109.01	BATM Adv Coms	25	-⅛	...	10.4
94.51	Berkeley Res	21⅛	+½	...	-9.0
22.05	Blackbird♦	6	-¼	...	-9.5
7.42	CloudCoCo Group♦	1	...	...	-2.5
2,670.90	Computacenter	2340	-134	...	14.5
49.15	Concurrent Tech♦	67	-½	...	15.9
32.00	Corero♦	6⅜	-⅛	...	...
471.32	Craneware♦	1330	-145	...	60.6
17.75	Crimson Tide♦	2⅝	-¼	...	18.0
43.78	CyanConn Hldgs♦	16⅛	...	...	...
72.68	D4t4 Solutions♦	182½	-12½	...	21.6
1.29	DeepMatter Gp♦	...	...	...	-0.1
3.84	Dillistone Group♦	19½	...	...	-5.6
21.90	EQTEC♦	⅛	...	...	-2.2
731.07	FDM Group	668	-7	...	23.1
27.97	Filtronic♦	13	+¾	...	35.1
515.83	First Derivts♦	1838	-44	...	...
727.19	GB Group♦	288	-13	...	21.9
127.98	GreshamTech‡	153	+1½	...	...
70.68	Ilika♦	44½	+1	...	...
15.33	Ingenta♦	105½	-4	...	61.7
30.57	Intercede♦	52½	-½	...	18.1
171.39	Iomart♦	155	-3⅜	...	17.0
224.55	IQE♦	23½	...	...	...
55.92	K3 Business Tch♦	125	+12½	...	-2.1
6,397.83	LG Electronics	1621⅝	+162⅛	...	4.3
4.63	Location Sciences♦	⅛	...	...	-2.9
1,804.83	Micro Focus Intl	532	+1	...	-5.6
43.83	MTI Wireless♦	49½	-1	...	16.4
58.68	Nanoco Gp	18⅛	-½	...	...
177.12	Netcall♦	110½	+11	...	...
10.35	Northamber♦	38	+½	...	...
1.93	Online Blockchain♦	13½	+1¾	...	-7.1
119.82	Oxford Metrics♦	92	...	...	40.0
5.00	Parity♦	4¾	+¼	...	-7.0
13.61	Pennant Intl♦	37	-1½	...	...
1,885.15	Playtech	609½	-16½	...	6.4
2,143.72	QinetiQ	370⅜	-9⅜	...	28.9
73.89	RM	88	+2⅛	...	17.6
8,782.49	**Sage**	857⅜	-7½	...	32.8
241.05	Seeing Machines♦	5¾	...	...	...
14.41	Shearwater Grp♦	60½	-2	...	37.4
12.59	Smartspace S'ware♦	43½	-1	...	-4.5
2,643.86	Softcat	1325	-44	...	25.9
1,080.55	Spirent Comms	179⅞	-4	...	16.7
98.93	SRT Marine♦	54½	+1	...	...
13,097.81	Tele. Ericsson	426¼	+9	...	7.7
8.26	Touchstar♦	97½	...	...	...
279.88	Tracsis♦	935	-35	...	...
8.00	Trakm8♦	16	...	...	...
24.87	Triad Grp	150	-10	...	16.4
880.27	Wandisco♦#	1310	...	...	...
95.76	Water Intel♦	445	...	...	24.4
135.71	Xaar	173	-5	...	...
6.67	Yourgene♦	⅛	...	...	-0.1
131.98	Zoo Digital♦	135	...	...	...

Telecoms

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
50.21	AdEPT Technology♦‡	200½	+1½	...	...
4,468.44	**Airtel Africa**	118⅞	+2⅞	...	10.6
14,307.30	**BT Group**	144	-⅞	...	13.9
578.08	Currys plc	51	-4⅛	...	2.4
1,148.78	Gamma Comms♦	1186	+28	...	21.4
956.48	Helios Towers	91	-3¼	...	-8.2
2,932.15	Just Eat T'away	1333	-144	...	-2.8
4.50	Mobile Streams♦	...	...	...	-1.4
6.89	Mobile Tornado♦	1⅝	...	...	-9.7
1,229.96	Telecom Plus	1548	-194	...	39.6
21,452.32	**Vodafone**	79⅜	-3½	...	...

Transport

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
96.14	Braemar Ship	292	-10	...	9.6
3,679.33	EasyJet	485⅜	-16½	...	-3.0
51.16	Esken Limited	4⅞	-⅛	...	-0.2
799.34	FirstGroup	113	-3	...	26.9
186.73	Fisher (James)	370½	+½	...	-6.7
7,729.19	**International Airlines**	156½	-⅝	...	-3.4
1,906.65	IDS	199⅜	-5	...	2.2
690.34	Irish Cont Uts‡	404	...	...	...
2,561.15	Jet2♦	1193	-34	...	-6.4
665.06	Natl Express	108¼	-10	...	-6.4
296.34	Ocean Wilson‡	838	-18	...	4.2
588.37	Stagecoach	104⅝	...	...	14.7
26.64	Sutton Harbour♦	20½	-1½	...	...
300.15	Wincanton	241	+24	...	6.5
2,977.94	Wizz Air	2883	-63	...	-6.5

Utilities

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
6,694.73	**Centrica**	118⅜	+1⅛	...	11.9
1,658.27	ContourGlobal	251	+½	...	28.3
2,361.97	Drax Group	586¾	-35½	...	43.4
146.15	Jersey Electricity	477	...	...	9.0
40,072.09	**National Grid**	1089½	-13½	...	25.4
34.06	OPG Power♦	8½	+½	...	5.5
2,025.15	Pennon	775	-51½	...	56.1
2.81	Rurelec♦	½	...	...	-0.4
6,857.71	**Severn Trent**	2726	-87	...	...
19,991.32	**SSE**	1833½	-34½	...	7.1
6,849.57	**United Utilities**	1004½	-36½	...	92.1

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

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Long-jump champion who won three Olympic medals
Ralph Boston
Page 46

Register

Obituaries

The Rev Canon John Oates

Effective rector of St Bride's during the Wapping dispute who combined pastoral concern with a flamboyant approach to ministry

In January 1986, at the start of the year-long Wapping dispute, Canon John Oates organised an all-night vigil in St Bride's, the "journalists' church" in Fleet Street. The place was packed and the air crackling with tension. Fearing they were about to lose their jobs, the print chapels of The Sun and News of the World had voted for strike action. Yet other journalists could see that the introduction of computer technology that would come with the planned move to Wapping was the only way to save their industry. In the ensuing clash, 500 policemen would be injured, and strike-breakers would be regularly intimidated and beaten up. As the rector of St Bride's, Oates ministered impartially to both sides and then watched on as other newspapers moved out of Fleet Street.

He had arrived in 1984 in the days of hot metal and all-powerful print unions, at a time when nearly all the national newspapers were based in or around Fleet Street. The area came alive in the evening and activity continued far into the night; lorries trundled along the narrow streets to deliver their vast rolls of newsprint and later vans rushed out to the railheads to catch the mail trains. The rector of St Bride's had to be available night and day and his study door was always open, even at 3am.

Oates was a gregarious and effective networker, sensitive to the stresses of the newspaper world and equally at ease with print unions as with proprietors. He worked hard to maintain the historic links with the press, and to build relationships with the banks, lawyers and accountants who moved into the parish.

Oates cajoled the son of Billy Smart to lend him an elephant for a stunt

In 1987 he held vigils for John McCarthy and the other hostages seized in Beirut, and helped to ensure that they were remembered week by week. On McCarthy's release in 1991, there was a service of celebration at St Bride's attended by John Major, the prime minister, and Robert Runcie, a former Archbishop of Canterbury.

Oates, who served as rector for 16 years, also helped to organise the appeal for an office extension at the church, opened by the Princess of Wales; as chairman of governors of the nearby St Bride's Institute, he worked to assure the future of the building and the establishment of the Bridewell Theatre. He grew the Sunday congregations and saw the St Bride's Choir develop its full potential as one of the foremost professional choirs in London.

He had spent much of his youth moving from posts in Australia to the East End of London. In 1970, having married and started a family, he decided he needed stability and was appointed the vicar of Richmond. Oates ministered to a wide range of influential and well-known figures. He had met Ronnie Smart, the son of Billy Smart, whose circus had come to the area, and when the church wanted to support the mental health charity Mind, Oates persuaded Smart to lend him an elephant that they paraded through the town, with John perched on top and sporting the banner "Elephants Never Forget: Mind You Remember MIND Week". The comedian Leslie Crowther walked behind shovelling up the droppings.

Many of Oates's parishioners worked in Fleet Street and the City and it was therefore a natural move when, after 14 years at Richmond, the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey offered him the living of St Bride's.

Born in 1930 in a mining village in West Yorkshire, Oates was the son of a miner, also called John. The family was Roman Catholic but, because there was no accessible RC church, they began attending the Anglican parish church instead. John had been thinking about ordination from the age of 12 but, when his mother, Ethel, died unexpectedly, he was so appalled at the family disagreements over the funeral service that he turned his back on the church and went to Australia, touring the country on a motorbike, to get thoughts of ordination out of his system.

While in Australia, he stayed with the community of the Society of the Sacred Mission outside Adelaide (the Kelham Fathers) and there rediscovered his calling to ministry. On his return to England he studied at Kelham and, after being ordained deacon in 1957, served his first curacy at St Mary's, Hackney Wick in east London.

Responding instinctively and immediately to the needs of young people in the area, and feeling strongly that participation in youth activities should not be conditional upon church attendance, he gathered a small group of teenagers and began what became known as the '59 Club. He managed to persuade Cliff Richard to sing on the opening night and 450 young people turned up. By January 1960 there were more than 900 members. Oates was soon dubbed the "Rock'n'Roll Rev" and, as the fame of the '59 Club grew, he reputedly turned down a booking for the Beatles because they demanded a fee.

His work brought him to the attention of the central church authorities and he was appointed development officer of the Church of England youth council, touring the country and advising on the setting up of youth centres.

Then in 1964 he became the secretary of the Church of England council for Commonwealth settlement and secretary of the committee on migration and international affairs. He worked largely in Western Australia, helping to induct immigrants into the Australian church. He was appointed commissary to the clergy there and to the Archbishop of Perth, acting for them in this country and interviewing people in England on their behalf. Gradually his work expanded, involving more extensive travel to monitor the church's ministry across the world.

He would go on to become chaplain to the London Press Club, the Publicity Club of London, the Chartered Institute of Journalists and the Chartered Institute of Public Relations. He was also chaplain to three City livery companies — the Stationers and Newspaper Makers, the Marketors and the Turners — and gave much-valued service to each. He was made Area Dean of the City of London in 1997, when he was also appointed a Prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral.

That he would end up as rector of St Bride's Church, the spiritual home of Fleet Street journalists, seemed preordained. Aged 17 he had left school and become a railway cadet with a view to a career in the rail industry. A perk of the new job was a rail pass, allowing him monthly free rail travel. Fresh out of school, Oates decided to use his free travel for a trip from his home near Huddersfield in West Yorkshire for a journey with a purpose. First he went to see the owner-editor of the weekly Huddersfield District Chronicle, offering to travel down to London and produce an eye-witness reporter's account of the marriage of Princess Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth II) and the Duke of Edinburgh. The paper's editor hesitated, then said go ahead. He would pay the enterprising young journalist a penny a line if his report were printed.

Armed with his travel pass, Oates caught a train, witnessed the wedding on November 20, 1947, then took the evening train back, composing his report on the return journey. Printed a day later, it ran to 168 lines and was headed "From the 'Chronicle' special representative at the Wedding."

The call of the church would ultimately trump the lure of journalism.

Fifty-three years later, in 2000, when he retired from St Bride's, Oates and his wife, Sylvia (née Harris), were given a dinner at Claridge's by the proprietors of most national newspapers. An impressive ice sculpture of St Bride's adorned the room as senior journalists and executives lauded Oates for his dedication to their industry.

He and Sylvia, who married in 1962, moved to a flat in Richmond and he continued to keep in contact with his wide circle of friends, as well as travelling extensively, especially to his beloved Australia. He maintained an active ministry in retirement, taking services at St Andrew's, Ham and St Cyprian's, Clarence Gate.

Sylvia predeceased him in 2018 and five children survive him: David, a surveyor; Jeremy, a management consultant; Rebecca, a counsellor; Alistair, also a surveyor; and Jonathan (Jonny), Lord Oates, chief executive of United Against Malnutrition and Hunger, a not-for-profit company.

A priest of strong contrasts, Oates combined a prayerful and pastoral concern for others with a flamboyant and dynamic approach to ministry, and although he could be mercurial and demanding in his professional relationships, he was driven by a desire to achieve the best results. He understood the world of newspapers, sympathised with the bohemian life of Fleet Street, and never lost a sense of pride at having served as rector of the journalists' church.

The Rev Canon John Oates, rector of St Bride's Church, 1984-2000, was born on May 14, 1930. He died after a short illness on May 25, 2023, aged 93

TIMES NEWSPAPERS LTD







John Oates after becoming the area dean of London in 1997; meeting the Princess of Wales in 1989; and the long-running and acrimonious News International strike in Wapping in 1986. Oates organised a vigil at St Bride's, the journalists' church

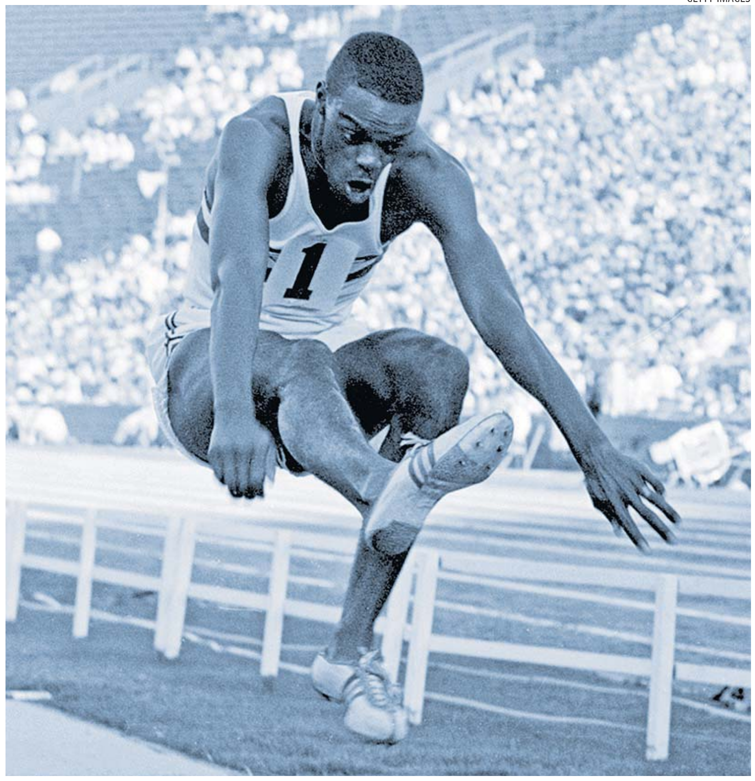
Register

Ralph Boston

Long-jump champion in the Sixties who won three Olympic medals and famously broke Jesse Owens's world record



GETTY IMAGES



Boston setting another world record at the US Olympic trials in 1964 and, left, being congratulated by Jesse Owens after breaking his world record in 1960

Ralph Boston was competing for gold in the long jump at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico when he graciously gave some advice to his young compatriot Bob Beamon, who was in danger of being eliminated in qualification.

The 22-year-old Beamon had been inspired to take up the event after listening to the 1960 Olympic champion Boston give a speech at his high school gym. With his Olympic dream hanging by a thread, Beamon did exactly what his hero recommended and qualified for the final, where in the first round he produced a giant leap through the thin high-altitude air that left spectators gasping in astonishment. Officials did not have a tape long enough to measure the jump and it took half an hour to verify the distance. It was Boston who told his friend that he had just smashed the world record with a jump of 8.90m.

"I wouldn't have done that if it hadn't been for Ralph Boston," Beamon recalled of the act of sportsmanship to rank among any in the modern Games' 127-year history. "I fouled on my first two attempts and was about to get disqualified, and then Ralph told me I needed to adjust my footwork leading to my take-off. I figured I had better listen to the master, and I did."

Boston's own rise to world stardom in athletics had been equally meteoric; he was better known as a high jumper when he won the US National Collegiate Association long-jump title in 1960. "Everything kind of came together," he said. Less than a month later, he jumped 8.21m to break Jesse Owens's world record of 8.13m that had stood for 25 years.

Boarding an aircraft to New York to be outfitted in the US team uniform for that summer's Rome Olympics, he was given a demonstration of his growing reputation when he was stopped by a young man with a camera, who said to him: "Ralph Boston, I want to take your picture." Boston assented and then asked him who he was. "You don't know me now," his fellow Olympian replied, "but you will. My name is Cassius Marcellus Clay [Muhammad Ali, as he was later known]." Both would go on to win gold medals in the Eternal City, with Boston winning the long jump by 1cm ahead of his compatriot Bo Roberson.

Boston's career thereafter was marked by a fierce, but friendly, rivalry with the Soviet long jumper Igor Ter-Ovanesyan in which they outjumped each other to the world record several times. The 1964 Olympics in Tokyo was expected to be another shoot-out between Boston and Ter-Ovanesyan, but in wet and windy conditions the Soviet athlete had the upper hand going into the final round. Then an unheralded Welsh PE teacher called Lynn Davies stepped on to the runway and the headwind miraculously dropped. He took advantage and jumped 8.07m to take the lead. According to The Times, Boston walked over to Ter-Ovanesyan, shrugged his shoulders and said, "There goes the gold medal." So it did. Boston's consolation was to beat Ter-Ovanesyan with his final effort to secure silver.

The next year Boston broke the world record for the sixth and final time with a jump of 8.35m, a mark that would have been good enough to win gold at the London Olympics in 2012 and would stand until it was surpassed by Beamon.

Ralph Boston was born in 1939 the youngest of ten children in Laurel, Mississippi, a stronghold of the Ku Klux Klan. His father, Peter, was a railway fireman until he lost an eye in a hunting accident and thereafter tended a homestead and did odd jobs. His mother, Eulalia, as well as looking after her own brood, was renowned for helping needy neighbours and strangers passing by.

Ralph, who would work on the family farm before school, could trace his interest in sports to his brother Peter, who excelled at several of them. The child learnt to swim in a nearby creek and built himself a high jump from bamboo sticks with a sawdust landing pit.

However, his first sporting love was American football, and at Oak Park High school he played at quarterback, winning the "Negro state football championship". Further ambition was stymied by his mother, who disapproved of the game and the jock culture surrounding it. "In those days Mama prevailed," Boston recalled. At the same time the school athletics coach, Joseph Frye, saw greater potential in his tall and sinewy frame for the sport of athletics. Frye was right. Boston soon developed into a star athlete, setting a national high-school record in the 180-yard hurdles.

He studied biochemistry at Tennessee State University, where he was almost a one-man track and field team, competing in the high jump, sprints, high hurdles and long jump. After graduating, Boston married Geneva Jackson Spencer in 1962. They divorced in 1971. He is survived by their sons: Todd and Stephen.

The Mexico Games in 1968 was Boston's final competition. After completing a full set of Olympic medals by winning bronze, once again ahead of his old rival Ter-Ovanesyan, he decided he needed a proper job to support his young family. He became an administrator at the University of Tennessee and assistant dean of students and also worked as an athletics commentator for CBS.

A gentlemanly figure who in his own way had aided the civil rights movement, Boston said that travelling to London had led to an awakening that the culture of segregation so ingrained in Mississippi was not how it had to be. "To stand at Speakers' Corner and listen to people talk and debate things made me think, 'I'm not sure I was allowed to do that when I grew up'."

He went on to become a director of customer relations for Ericsson, owned a carpet-cleaning business and was a director in a local TV station that was a subsidiary in CBS. He was a keen golfer and did charitable work with underprivileged children; his main piece of advice was invariably "get into sports".

Interviewed by Sky Sports not long ago, Boston was asked whether it still felt "lovely" to hold his Olympic medals. "Lovely isn't even close," he replied. "William Shakespeare could probably give you a word but I can't."

Ralph Boston, athlete, was born on May 9, 1939. He died of complications after a stroke on April 30, 2023, aged 83

Rita Lee

Flame-haired singer hailed as Brazil's 'Queen of Rock' whose voice attracted fans ranging from Kurt Cobain to King Charles

GETTY



Lee had eight No 1 hits as a solo artist

Known as Brazil's "Queen of Rock", Rita Lee once claimed that her band Os Mutantes had "come from another planet to take over the world". Certainly there was something otherworldly about the cosmic fantasies and acid-inspired psychedelic visions of the group, who were called "the Brazilian Beatles". One of Os Mutantes's biggest hits was tellingly titled *Ando Meio Desligado* (I'm Feeling a Little Spaced Out).

Formed in Sao Paulo in 1966 by Lee, her then boyfriend, Arnaldo Baptista, and his brother, Sergio Dias Baptista, the group took its name from a science fiction book called *O Planeta dos Mutantes* (The Planet of the Mutants) and swiftly became the most inventive and irreverent rock'n'roll group in Brazil.

They found natural allies in the movement known locally as Tropicalia. Based on the aesthetic of antropofagia, a kind of musical cannibalism that chewed up influences from diverse genres, the result was a unique melange of samba and bossa nova rhythms and imported Anglo-American popular and avant-garde styles, fired by socially and politically conscious lyrics that took aim at Brazil's military rulers.

Lee and Os Mutantes became Tropicalia's house band, backing the movement's leading lights such as Gilberto Gil and Caetano Veloso and between 1968 and 1972 recording five albums in their own right with titles such as *E Seus Cometas No Pais Do Baurets* (Mutants and their Comets in the Country of Weed).

Their records still sound original to this day and almost half a century after the release of Os Mutantes's self-titled debut release, Rolling Stone included it on a list of "the greatest stoner albums of all time", calling it one of the "most mischievous head trips" of its era.

Isolated from the mainstream of Anglo-American pop, the group found inventive ways of creating the sound effects they heard on imported rock records. Not knowing how to replicate the backwards tape sounds on the Beatles' *Tomorrow Never Knows*, they found an approximation of the effect by aiming a canister of fly killer at the microphone. A similarly improvised Heath Robinson contraption was used to create the sound of a guitar wah-wah pedal.

It was all done not merely with ingenuity but with a subversive sense of surreal humour and an eccentric stage presence, with Lee taking charge of their extravagant costumes. For one gig they would appear as conquistadors, for the next they might be dressed as witches or aliens. Early in her career Lee suffered from chronic stage fright and she was not the first or last performer to seek to overcome it by dressing up.

However, by the mid-1970s the band had fallen apart, collapsing under the weight of their philosophy of free love and liberal drug use and the oppression of living under a military dictatorship, although they were never jailed and forced into exile as were Gil and Veloso.

Lee went on to a commercially successful solo career and Os Mutantes, whose music at that stage had been little heard outside Brazil, faded into rock history, if not quite into obscurity.

As a solo artist she scored eight No 1 hit singles in Brazil and a dozen gold or platinum albums, among them a bossa nova-styled collection of Beatles songs titled *Aqui, Ali, Em Qualquer Lugar* (Here, There and Everywhere). Her voice attracted some unlikely fans beyond Brazilian shores too. In 1988 the Daily Mirror reported that Charles, then the Prince of Wales, had requested a Rita Lee record during a British embassy banquet in Paris and when it was played "knew the words by heart".

The world was slower to discover the Os Mutantes back catalogue but in the 1990s a younger generation of British and American rock stars started citing the band as unsung heroes. Nirvana's Kurt Cobain begged them to re-form, Beck named his 1998 Grammy-winning album after them and David Byrne of Talking Heads brought their music to a new audience by releasing an influential compilation of their best work on his New York-based label Luaka Bop.

Two decades after they had broken up, Lee and Os Mutantes found they had turned into a hipster cult. "The bottom line is that we were light years ahead of everyone else," Lee said in a 2001 interview with The New York Times.

The Baptista brothers re-formed the group in 2006 to play their first ever show outside Brazil at the Barbican Centre in London, although Lee did not join them, calling it an attempt to "earn some cash to pay for geriatric care".

She is survived by her second husband, Roberto de Carvalho, a guitarist she married in 1976, and their children Beto Lee, a Brazilian rock musician, João Lee, and Antônio Lee. Her first marriage to Os Mutantes's Arnaldo Baptista from 1968 to 1972 ended in divorce.

She fought a long battle with lung cancer and named her tumour "Jair", a sardonic reference to Jair Bolsonaro, Brazil's far-right president from 2019-22, which outraged his supporters. On her death his successor, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, paid tribute. Lee was "one of the greatest and most brilliant names in Brazilian music", he wrote.

Rita Lee Jones was born in 1947 in Sao Paulo, the youngest of three daughters of Romilda Padula, a Brazilian-Italian pianist, and Charles Jones, an American-born dentist descended from Confederate fighters who fled to Brazil after the American Civil War — he gave his daughter her middle name in honour of General Robert E Lee.

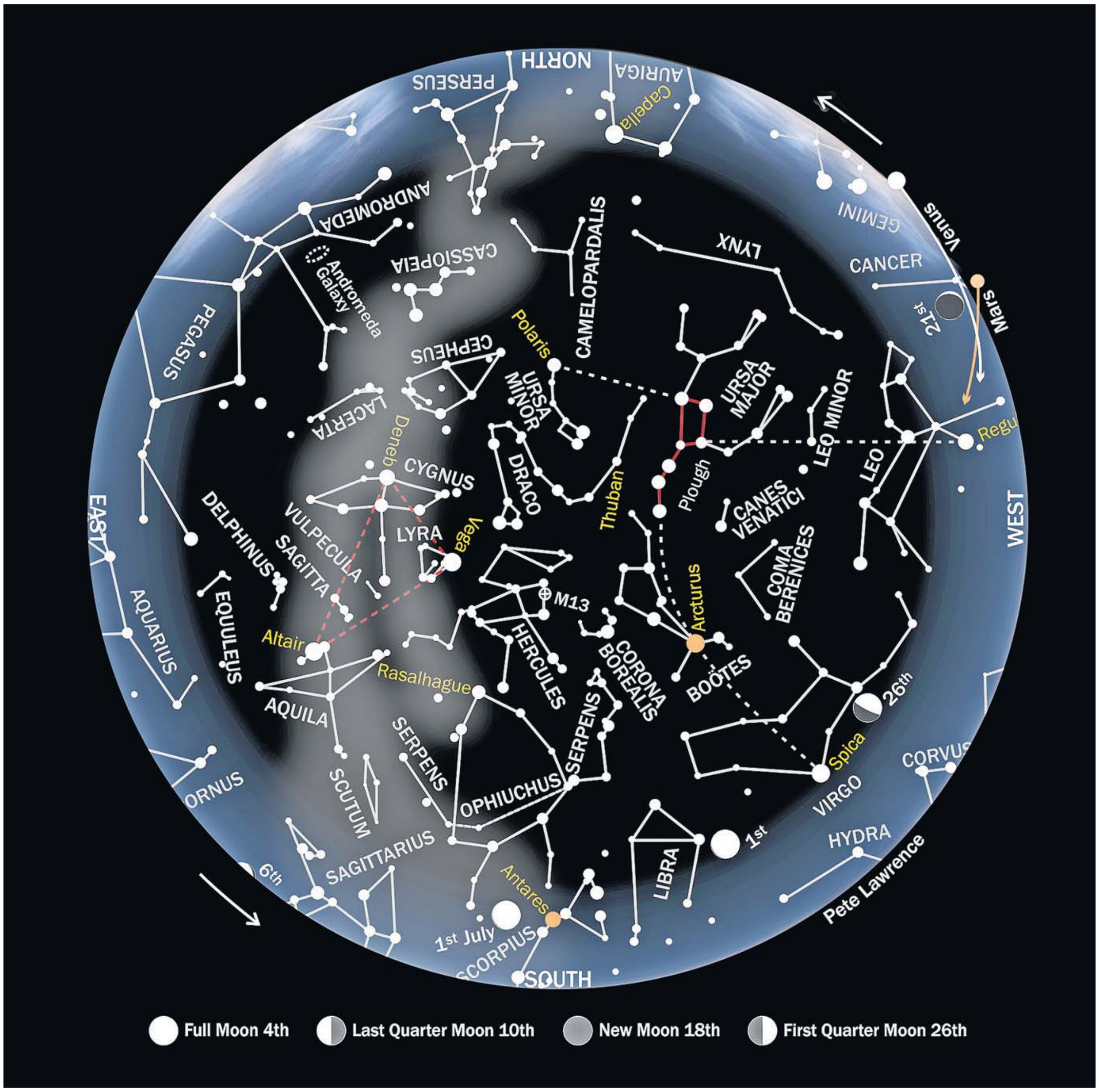
She studied classical piano from an early age and recounted in a 2016 autobiography that she had been sexually abused as a child by a man who visited the family home to repair her mother's sewing machine. The traumatic experience fuelled her rebellious spirit. In her teens she abandoned the piano for a drum set and a guitar and was 18 when she formed Os Mutantes.

Lee composed her own epitaph, expressing the wish that her headstone should read: "She was never a good example. But she was a good person."

Rita Lee, Brazilian singer, was born on December 31, 1947. She died of cancer on May 8, 2023, aged 75

Register

Night Sky June



To use this chart hold it up so that the direction in which you're actually looking is at the bottom of the chart. The bottom edge of the chart will then represent your real horizon and the centre represents the point directly overhead. The view is correct for the UK at midnight GMT on June 1, 11pm GMT on June 15 and 10pm GMT on June 30.

Venus puts on a show worth seeing

Chris Lintott

As the Sun reaches the most northerly point in its annual path around the sky on June 21, the summer solstice, those observing from the latitudes of the British Isles will be starved of a properly dark sky. Luckily, this year several bright planets will put on a show worth seeing.

Pre-eminent among them is Venus, which reaches its greatest easterly elongation on June 4. At this point, it is at its furthest point from the Sun in the evening sky, and thus easily visible at twilight. Earth's inner neighbour is about as bright as it ever appears, and makes for a dazzling sight. Later in the month it will quickly lose altitude, so the brilliant evening planet is best seen in the week or so after the eastern elongation occurs.

Though the planet's thick and acidic atmosphere hides its surface, observing Venus through binoculars or indeed a small telescope reveals a distinct phase. At this point of its orbit, the planet is half full, although distinguishing the phase precisely is complicated by the distorting effects of its atmosphere.

Look out in particular on the evening of the 21st, when a crescent Moon is prevalent. Mars is present too, though much fainter. The easiest way to spot it will be to look slightly below the line made by Venus and the Moon on the evening after their closest approach, June 22. If you gaze between west and northwest, the Moon is the most easterly of the three, followed by Mars and then Venus. The two planets approach each other during the last week of June, but binoculars are likely to be required to pick them out, as they sink toward the horizon.

June is most notable for being the start of noctilucent cloud season. These night-shining clouds, which can glow brightly in the northwest after sunset, can be eerie, taking on an otherwordly glow. They are a phenomenon of the upper atmosphere, sitting high enough that they are illuminated by the Sun after it has set from the perspective of observers on the ground, and worth looking for throughout the summer months, not least because it has so far proved impossible to predict when such bright displays might occur.

This unpredictability is in part because we do not fully understand what causes them to form in the upper mesosphere, located between 80km and 100km above our heads. The clouds are made of water ice, but what causes water vapour to be present to form clouds in this remote layer of the atmosphere is unclear. The first modern record of such clouds dates from 1885 — surprisingly recent, just two years after the eruption of the volcano at Krakatoa, which spewed significant quantities of ash into the upper atmosphere. It has been suggested that this material might have triggered noctilucent clouds, but there were other major volcanic eruptions in the 19th century which seem not to have resulted in similar phenomena.

Whatever the initial cause, bright displays of noctilucent clouds have become more common over the past few decades. Climate change, whose effects on the upper atmosphere are not well understood, may be responsible, although another possibility is the unintended effect of rocket launches. Craft such as Nasa's space shuttle, which used hydrogen and oxygen as fuel, produced water from its exhaust system, and thus may have contributed to the raw material for cloud production.

Bright stars can also still be seen in the twilight. The "summer triangle" of Deneb, Altair and Vega are prominent in the east. Deneb sits at the top of the cross which forms the easily recognisable shape of the constellation Cygnus, the Swan, while the four stars that form a parallelogram underneath Vega make a rather rudimentary lyre. Vega itself is a bright, young star which is surrounded by a disk of material which may be in the process of planet formation.

Below Vega, skirting the southern horizon are the riches of the centre of the Milky Way, threaded through the zodiacal constellations of Scorpius and the teapot-shaped Sagittarius. In the northwest, the asterism of the Plough is high in the sky, with the curve of its handle pointing the way to Arcturus and Spica, the latter now low and soon to be lost to view entirely. The "W" of Cassiopeia is easily found in the northeast, while below it our map shows the emerging stars of Pegasus, an early herald of autumn and a reminder to make the most of the warm summer nights.

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Births, Marriages and Deaths

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I SOUGHT the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.
Psalm 34.4-7 (NIV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

In Memoriam - Private

DUKE Walter Harry, died 29th May 1983. Much-loved husband and father. Still so sadly missed.

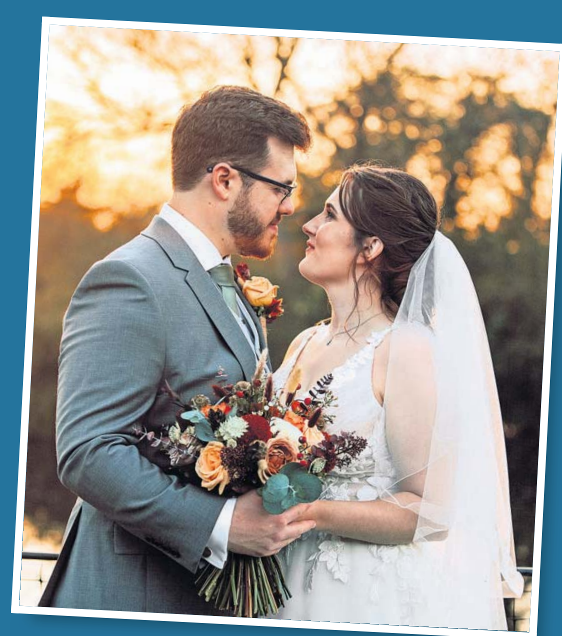
There is no Court Circular for May 27 or 28

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PHOTOGRAPHER LIAM GILLAN

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Thu 30 **Akureyri, Iceland**

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Today Staying dry with long spells of hazy sunshine, cloudier across northern Scotland. Max 22C (72F), min 3C (37F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder *=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C		Rain mm	Sun hr*
	midday yesterday		24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	
Aberdeen	11	C	0.0	5.1
Aberporth	14	S	0.0	**
Anglesey	14	PC	0.0	0.2
Aviemore	11	R	0.0	3.3
Barnstaple	20	S	0.0	**
Bedford	18	PC	0.0	**
Belfast	12	M	0.0	4.7
Birmingham	19	C	0.0	**
Bournemouth	22	S	0.0	**
Bridlington	14	PC	0.0	**
Bristol	20	S	0.0	0.5
Camborne	17	S	0.0	**
Cardiff	18	PC	0.0	**
Edinburgh	13	C	0.0	7.0
Eskdalemuir	13	C	0.0	6.7
Glasgow	14	PC	0.2	3.2
Hereford	18	B	0.0	**
Herstmonceux	19	S	0.0	1.8
Ipswich	18	S	0.0	2.2
Isle of Man	14	C	0.0	6.1
Isle of Wight	20	S	0.0	**
Jersey	18	S	0.0	**
Keswick	17	S	0.0	**
Kinloss	12	C	0.0	4.4
Leeds	13	C	0.0	**
Lerwick	10	C	1.0	3.4
Leuchars	13	PC	0.0	4.8
Lincoln	17	C	0.0	3.0
Liverpool	15	C	0.0	**
London	20	PC	0.0	4.0
Lyneham	19	S	0.0	0.0
Manchester	18	C	0.0	0.0
Margate	16	S	0.0	6.2
Milford Haven	17	S	0.0	**
Newcastle	13	C	0.0	**
Nottingham	18	C	0.0	**
Orkney	10	C	0.2	4.1
Oxford	20	S	0.0	**
Plymouth	22	PC	0.0	**
Portland	19	S	0.0	**
Scilly, St Mary's	16	S	0.0	**
Shoreham	19	S	0.0	1.3
Shrewsbury	17	PC	0.0	0.0
Snowdonia	14	S	0.0	**
Southend	17	S	0.0	0.9
South Uist	11	C	0.0	**
Stornoway	11	C	0.0	3.5
Tiree	12	C	0.0	4.5
Whitehaven	14	C	0.0	3.0
Wick	11	C	0.2	**
Yeovilton	20	S	0.0	**

The world

All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	23	PC	Madeira	23	PC
Amsterdam	20	S	Madrid	18	B
Athens	23	B	Malaga	25	PC
Auckland	18	B	Mallorca	22	PC
Bahrain	39	S	Malta	24	PC
Bangkok	30	PC	Melbourne	13	SH
Barbados	31	PC	Mexico City	26	PC
Barcelona	22	S	Miami	30	B
Beijing	26	S	Milan	25	PC
Beirut	31	S	Mombasa	29	B
Belgrade	21	B	Montreal	24	PC
Berlin	22	S	Moscow	11	B
Bermuda	24	R	Mumbai	33	S
Bordeaux	29	S	Munich	21	S
Brussels	22	S	Nairobi	23	B
Bucharest	22	PC	Naples	26	PC
Budapest	23	S	New Orleans	27	PC
Buenos Aires	14	S	New York	22	PC
Cairo	30	PC	Nice	23	PC
Calcutta	34	S	Nicosia	28	S
Canberra	10	B	Oslo	15	S
Cape Town	18	S	Paris	24	S
Chicago	22	B	Perth	20	S
Copenhagen	16	B	Prague	19	S
Corfu	28	PC	Reykjavik	9	R
Delhi	32	S	Riga	19	S
Dubai	36	S	Rio de Janeiro	26	S
Dublin	14	PC	Riyadh	39	S
Faro	22	PC	Rome	25	S
Florence	27	PC	San Francisco	19	PC
Frankfurt	24	S	Santiago	16	PC
Geneva	22	PC	São Paulo	25	PC
Gibraltar	24	PC	Seoul	18	R
Helsinki	17	S	Seychelles	29	PC
Hong Kong	30	PC	Singapore	32	B
Honolulu	29	PC	St Petersburg	17	S
Istanbul	19	B	Stockholm	16	S
Jerusalem	32	S	Sydney	15	B
Johannesburg	17	S	Tel Aviv	32	S
Kuala Lumpur	32	SH	Tenerife	23	PC
Kyiv	**	**	Tokyo	23	B
Lanzarote	22	PC	Vancouver	18	PC
Las Palmas	24	PC	Venice	24	S
Lima	21	DU	Vienna	20	S
Lisbon	23	PC	Warsaw	19	S
Los Angeles	18	B	Washington	23	B
Luxor	**	**	Zurich	22	S

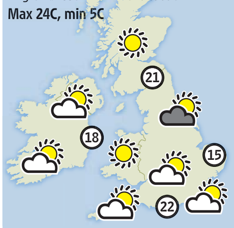
Five days ahead

Staying dry with sunny spells and feeling warm in western areas, cloudier in the east

Tomorrow

Staying mostly dry with sunny spells, but cloudier near the east coast and across East Anglia and southeastern England. Warmer in the west.

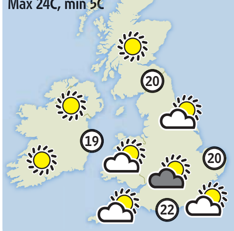
Max 24C, min 5C



Wednesday

Staying dry with sunny spells. Cloudier at times across parts of central and southern England and Wales.

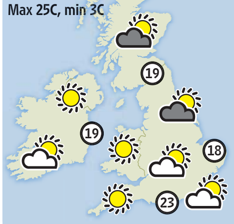
Max 24C, min 5C



Thursday

Areas of cloud spreading into northern and eastern Britain at times, but otherwise staying dry with sunny spells. Warm in the west.

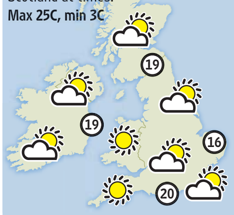
Max 25C, min 3C



Friday

Another largely dry day across Britain and Ireland with sunny spells and patchy cloud. A little cloudier near the east coast and across western Scotland at times.

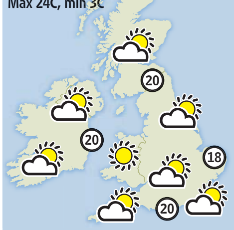
Max 25C, min 3C



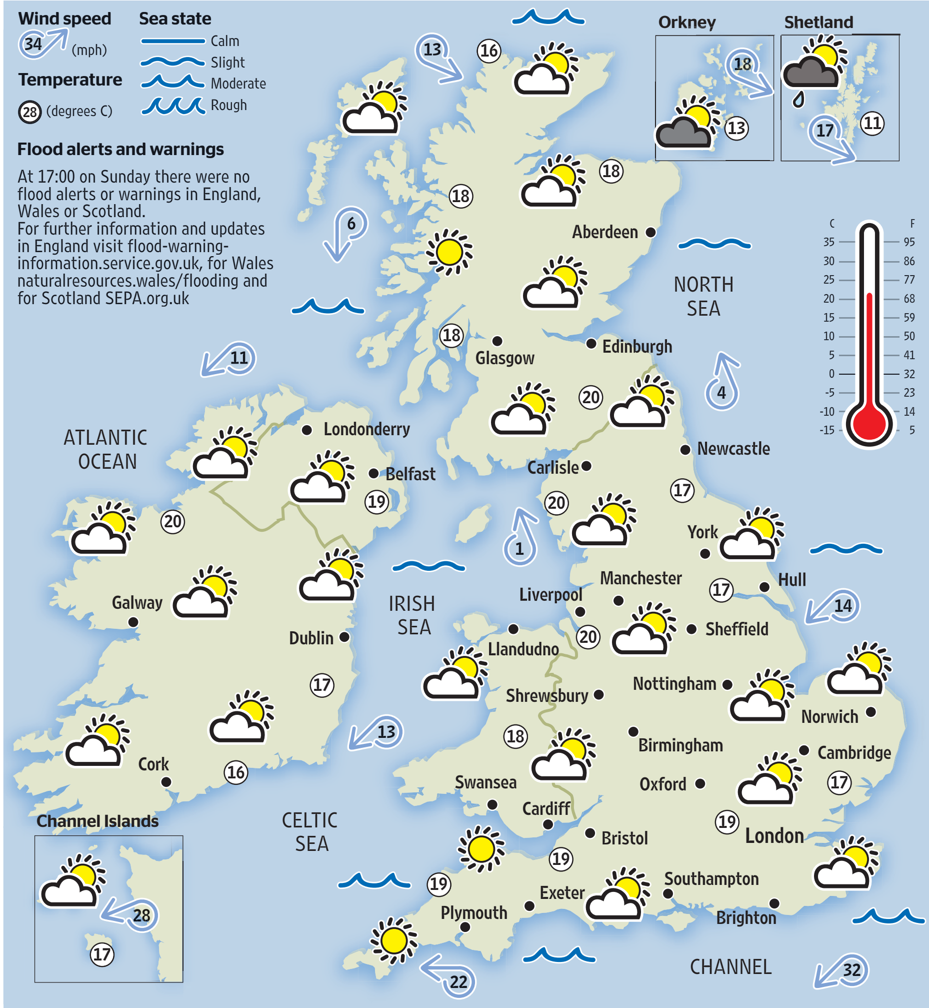
Saturday

Most places will remain dry with sunny spells although some areas of cloud moving through at times.

Max 24C, min 3C



The Times weather page is provided by WeatherQuest



Flood alerts and warnings

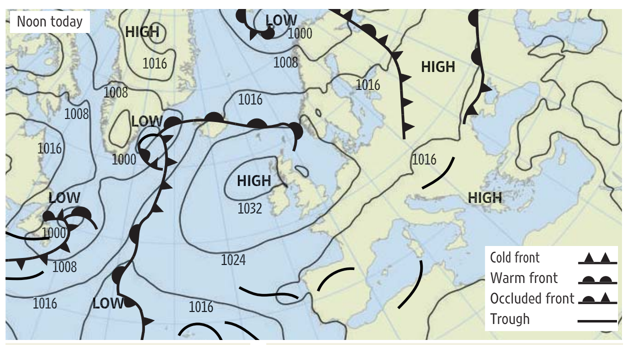
At 17:00 on Sunday there were no flood alerts or warnings in England, Wales or Scotland.
For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk

General situation: Dry with sunny spells. Breezy and cloudy at times in the southeast and Shetland Isles.
London, SE Eng, Cen S Eng, E Anglia, Channel Is: A breezy day and rather cloudy for a time, but staying dry with sunny spells developing. Moderate northeasterly winds, fresh to strong near the coast. Maximum 19C (66F), minimum 5C (41F).
Midlands, Wales, SW Eng, NW Eng, Cen N Eng: Staying dry with long spells of sunshine, although turning quite hazy at times. Moderate northeasterly winds. Maximum 21C (70F), minimum 4C (39F).
NE Eng, Lake District, IoM, Borders, SW Scotland, Aberdeen, Argyll, Edinburgh and Dundee, Glasgow, Moray Firth, Cen Highland: A dry day with long spells of sunshine, although quite hazy at times with high cloud drifting through. Light and variable winds. Maximum 21C (70F), minimum 3C (37F).
NW Scotland, NE Scotland, N Isles: Staying mostly dry with sunny intervals, but it will be rather cloudy much of the time with a few light showers over the Shetland Isles. Moderate westerly winds, fresh across the Shetland Isles. Maximum 16C (61F), minimum 3C (37F).
Republic of Ireland, N Ireland: Some patchy cloud at first, but otherwise staying dry with spells of hazy sunshine. Light to moderate east to northeasterly winds. Maximum 22C (72F), minimum 4C (39F).

Tides

Tidal predictions.
Heights in metres

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	09:32	3.3	22:28	3.3
Avonmouth	02:30	9.6	15:15	9.6
Belfast	06:59	3.0	19:54	2.7
Cardiff	02:28	9.2	15:08	9.1
Devonport	--:--	--	13:59	4.2
Dover	07:18	5.2	19:39	5.4
Dublin	--:--	--	--:--	--
Falmouth	--:--	--	13:27	3.9
Greenock	07:45	2.8	21:19	2.7
Harwich	07:32	3.2	19:55	3.2
Holyhead	06:24	4.4	19:18	4.3
Hull	02:13	5.4	14:21	5.6
Leith	10:45	4.3	23:18	4.3
Liverpool	07:10	7.3	19:49	7.2
London Bridge	09:31	5.6	22:02	5.5
Lowestoft	06:25	2.1	17:34	2.2
Milford Haven	01:56	5.2	14:41	5.1
Morecambe	07:24	7.1	20:03	7.0
Newhaven	07:05	4.8	19:45	5.2
Newquay	--:--	--	13:39	5.1
Oban	01:41	3.0	15:04	2.9
Penzance	--:--	--	13:16	4.1
Portsmouth	07:23	3.6	20:17	3.9
Shoreham	07:07	4.6	19:44	4.9
Southampton	05:53	3.3	18:51	3.7
Swansea	01:55	7.1	14:38	7.0
Tees	11:52	4.4	--:--	--
Weymouth	01:33	1.4	15:02	1.3



Synoptic situation

A large area of high pressure centred to the west of Scotland will continue to bring largely dry, settled conditions to Britain and Ireland. The best of the sunshine and warmer temperatures will be in western areas where winds are lighter and air is warmed by the land. A blustery northeasterly wind and areas of cloud will make it feel cooler near eastern coasts.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

Warmest: Bournemouth, 23.8C
Coldest: Braemar, Aberdeenshire, 0.2C
Wettest: Lerwick, 1.0mm
Sunniest: Dundrennan, Kirkcudbrightshire, 7.6hrs*

Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 04.51
Sun sets: 21.03
Moon rises: 14.21
Moon sets: 02.55 Tue
Full Moon: June 4th

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	22:15-03:54
Belfast	22:14-04:26
Birmingham	21:46-04:22
Cardiff	21:46-04:33
Exeter	21:43-04:38
Glasgow	22:15-04:12
Liverpool	21:55-04:22
London	21:34-04:20
Manchester	21:52-04:18
Newcastle	21:59-04:07
Norwich	21:34-04:09
Penzance	21:49-04:49
Sheffield	21:49-04:16

Weather Eye
Paul Simons



In late May 1640 the village of Antony in Cornwall was visited by a terrible event during the festival of Whitsun. The morning had started fine and the church was crowded with a congregation of about 200 people, but dark clouds gathered, followed by loud claps of thunder and flashes of lightning.

And as Communion was being taken, a fiery ball of light burst into the church and struck many of the people as they were about to receive communion. "I saw a great flaming fire about my body, and heard a terrible sound in mine ears," wrote Arthur Bache, the vicar, who was otherwise uninjured.

Others in the congregation felt their legs and feet burn, leaving their skin reddened, and one man described a violent blow like being hit by a bullet, which left him temporarily blinded although he recovered. Others thought their bodies had been cut in pieces, although this soon subsided and they were left with slight numbness. One man was spun round and others collapsed and were left so senseless they wondered if they had been killed before regaining their senses.

The church itself "seemed to shake", lime plaster on a side wall collapsed and covered people in white dust, one of the arches over a window was torn open and the window smashed, and the tower of the church was punched through with several holes, as if hit by cannon fire.

This was an incredibly violent outburst of ball lightning and ended in a climactic finale by fragmenting in a blaze of fire and flashes with a terrible noise that sounded like "several cannons firing off simultaneously". But despite the mayhem, no one was killed or severely injured although outside in a field two horses were struck down dead and the ground ploughed up.

This was no isolated phenomenon. Only two years previously ball lightning had struck another church about 40 miles away, at Widecombe-in-the-Moor in Devon, but in that incident several people were killed and many more badly injured.

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Sport

Thomas helps ‘brother’ Cavendish win



Elgan Alderman
Rome

Mark Cavendish and Geraint Thomas were young track bucks when they shared a flat in Manchester. Almost 20 years later, on the road with a combined age of 75, they joined forces in the final minutes of the Giro d’Italia to deliver Cavendish to victory in the catwalk at the capital, on his final day as a competitor in this race.

Though the Pink Jersey rests on the shoulders of Slovenia’s Primoz Roglic, Wales and the Isle of Man combined to turn Britain’s melancholic procession into a celebration.

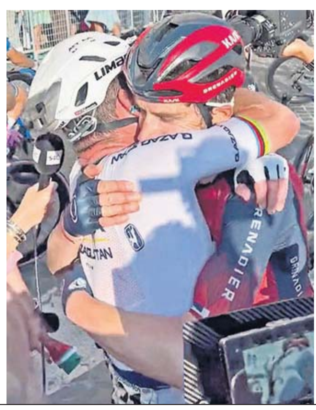
Cavendish, 38, will retire at the end of this season. Without a designated sprint train at his team, Astana Qazaqstan, he seemed destined to finish with 16 Giro stage wins. Fat chance when you have an unquenchable love of winning, and pals like Thomas.

“I saw he only had Luis León with him and I thought, ‘Help a brother out,’” the Ineos Grenadiers rider Thomas said. On the final circuit of the final stage, Thomas led his old friend to a comfortable victory — his 54th at a grand tour. The prospect of one last win at the Tour de France, to break Eddy Merckx’s record, seems real.

Cavendish does not need an invitation to show his emotions, but this perfect goodbye and “bucket-list” win by the Colosseum clearly meant heaps. Italy was where he won his first grand-tour stage 15 years ago, where he lived for a time (the stage went past his old flat), and he was supported by the man who thinks of Cavendish every time he sees a colander, thanks to their days living in Fallowfield together. With just under 2km to go, Thomas was at the front of the peloton, setting the pace that would propel Cavendish over the line.

Thomas has form here. The 2018 Tour ended with him as champion, but it started with him helping Cavendish — again, not as a team-mate — to rejoin the peloton on the opening day. On that occasion, Cavendish told Thomas not to waste his energy on him, but Thomas said he would always help if he could.

“We kind of said jokingly, ‘Fancy leading out?’ ” Cavendish said. “It was off the cuff. He just shouted ‘Cav’ and just went. He’s so special. For 25 years he’s been one of my best friends, you know? You see what he said yesterday, how optimistic and upbeat he is, despite losing the *Maglia Rosa*. That’s him to a tee, that’s how he’s always been, always seeing the glass as half-full. That’s why he’s special, and more than any bike rider he’s a f***ing good person, good friend, and good team-mate and most loyal rider I could get.”





LUCA BETTINI/GETTY IMAGES; GIRO D’ITALIA

Cavendish, who retires at the end of the season, wins the final stage after he was led out by his long-time friend Thomas, who congratulated him afterwards, left

There were echoes of 11 years earlier at the Tour when Bradley Wiggins, wearing the *Maillot Jaune*, led Cavendish to a fourth win on the Champs-Élysées. This was different, though: in 2012, Wiggins and Cavendish were team-mates, the former rejoicing in becoming the first Briton to win the race. Here, Thomas and Cavendish are not team-mates, and the former was dealing with having victory snatched from him in a hellish penultimate-stage time-trial.

Cavendish’s stage win at Catanzaro-Lungomare in the 2008 Giro marked his arrival as the fastest man on two wheels. From then on, you turned up at a sprint and knew he would win. Now you turn up and expect him not to, but deep down you believe he just might. He is lonelier now at the finish of stages, no longer supported by a train of team-mates catered to his needs, but no less popular, no less able to win when it seems impossible. It looked like his career as a grand-tour sprinter had ended in 2016, beset by Epstein-Barr virus and clinical depression, only for him to win four stages at the Tour in 2021. The coda continues to be written.

The teams had flown down from the northeast of Italy to complete the race in Rome, only the fifth time it has ended here. They rode to the seaside before six loops of a 13.6km circuit, rounding the Colosseum and finishing with 700m of Sampietrini cobblestones. As Thomas and Roglic coasted up Via Cristoforo Colombo from Ostia to Rome, they chatted side-by-side like old friends, each resigned to his fate: first for Roglic, second for Thomas. After more than 300,000 seconds of racing, 14 separated them in the general classification.

Thomas was magnanimous on Saturday, grateful that Roglic had “smashed” him in the eye-watering time-trial up to Monte Lussari, rather than sneaking past by one or two seconds. For once, it was not fate that deprived Thomas of a tilt at victory. In four previous Giro appearances, he had finished 118th for Barloworld in 2008, 80th for Team Sky in 2012 and a did-not-finish double in 2017 and 2020.

Six years ago he was second in the general classification when, on the ninth stage, Wilco Kelderman hit a police motorcycle and brought Thomas down. Injuries to his shoulder (he said it had popped out of its socket) and knee eventually cut his race short. Three years later, a fractured pelvis after riding into a stray bottle removed him from contention in the third stage.

Thomas has no spleen — a crash with metal debris as a teenager saw to that — but he has heart within his laid-back demeanour, and does not give up easily. He rode almost the entirety of the 2013 Tour with a fractured pelvis, needing to be helped on to his bike at times. Cavendish knows of Thomas’s courage and love of a battle, and continues to benefit from it as he nears the finish line for good.

Results and scoreboards

Cricket

Tour match: Essex v Ireland

Chelmsford (final day of three): Ireland beat Essex by ten wickets

Essex First Innings 343 (R J Das 132, G H Dockrell 74, M R Adair 62; T Mayes 4 for 68)

Second Innings (overnight 59-2)

R J Das c McCollum b Hume	32
C Campher c Tucker b Mayes	20
G H Dockrell c Hand b Mayes	26
M R Adair c Tucker b Hand	85
†W E L Buttleman c Tucker b Mayes	65
N R M Thain c Moor b McBrine	36
J A Richards not out	2
M T Foster not out	0
Extras (b 4, lb 5, w 6)	15
Total (8 wkts dec, 53 overs)	**307**

Fall of wickets 1-26, 2-29, 3-64, 4-103, 5-113, 6-237, 7-305, 8-307.

Bowling Hume 13-1-50-3; Hand 13-1-97-1; Mayes 11-1-55-3; Young 9-1-46-0; McBrine 7-0-50-1.

Ireland First Innings 419 (P R Stirling 107, L Tucker 97, A R McBrine 67; J A Richards 5 for 96)

Second Innings

J A McCollum not out	100
P J Moor not out	118
Extras (lb 10, nb 4)	14
Total (no wkt, 42.4 overs)	**232**

Bowling Adair 5-1-19-0; Richards 7-2-34-0; Kalley 7-0-39-0; Campher 6-0-20-0; Dockrell 9-0-62-0; Thain 4-0-14-0; Foster 3-0-20-0; Browne 1.4-0-14-0.

Umpires R A White and R Black.

Vitality Blast: North group
Yorkshire Vikings v Durham

Headingley Carnegie (Yorkshire Vikings won toss): Durham (2pts) beat Yorkshire Vikings by 28 runs

Durham		(balls)
G Clark c Tattersall b Fisher	0	(1)
*A Z Lees c Chohan b Mike	90	(53)
M A Jones c Lyth b Bess	43	(34)
†O G Robinson not out	64	(30)
A J Turner not out	7	(4)
Extras (lb 4, w 5, nb 4)	13	
Total (3 wkts, 20 overs)	**217**	

B de Leede, L Doneathy, L Trevaskis, B A Raine, N A Sowter and B D Glover did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-1, 2-86, 3-197.

Bowling Fisher 3-0-24-1; Wiese 4-0-42-0; Revis 1-0-12-0; Thompson 4-0-51-0; Bess 3-0-31-1; Chohan 3-0-25-0; Mike 2-0-28-1.

Yorkshire Vikings		(balls)
A Lyth c Robinson b Glover	24	(8)
D J Malan c Clark b Sowter	26	(18)
*S M Khan c Turner b De Leede	6	(6)
†J A Tattersall c De Leede b Raine	39	(33)
M L Revis run out	14	(11)
J A Thompson lbw b Raine	33	(24)
D Wiese c Trevaskis b Raine	28	(14)
B W M Mike not out	5	(5)
D M Bess not out	0	(1)
Extras (b 2, lb 4, w 8)	14	
Total (7 wkts, 20 overs)	**189**	

J A Chohan and M D Fisher did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-30, 2-37, 3-65, 4-94, 5-141, 6-157, 7-188.

Bowling De Leede 4-0-47-1; Glover 3-0-35-1; Raine 4-0-27-3; Sowter 4-0-30-1; Turner 3-0-27-0; Trevaskis 2-0-17-0.

Played Saturday: Emirates Old Trafford Lancashire Lightning 208-4 (D J Mitchell 85 not out); Notts Outlaws 186-5 (C Munro 60). ***Lancashire Lightning (2pts) won by 22 runs.***

	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	RR
Lancashire	3	3	0	0	0	**6**	2.02
Durham	2	2	0	0	0	**4**	2.59
Birmingham	2	2	0	0	0	**4**	1.49
Worcestershire	2	2	0	0	0	**4**	0.46
Notts	2	1	1	0	0	**2**	0.30
Yorkshire	3	0	3	0	0	**0**	-1.09
Derbyshire	2	0	2	0	0	**0**	-1.12
Northants	2	0	2	0	0	**0**	-2.16
Leicestershire	2	0	2	0	0	**0**	-2.75

South group: Somerset v Glamorgan

Taunton (Somerset won toss): Somerset (2pts) beat Glamorgan by four wickets

Glamorgan		(balls)
E J Byrom lbw b Van der Merwe	42	(28)
S A Northeast c Lammonby b Overton	2	(7)
*K S Carlson c Abell b Gregory	31	(19)
C A Ingram c Abell b Gregory	13	(9)
†C B Cooke c Overton b Henry	18	(16)
B I Kellaway c Overton b Van der Merwe	1	(4)
W T Root c Abell b Siddle	18	(16)
D A Douthwaite c Henry b Van der Merwe	5	(5)
R A J Smith c Gregory b Green	3	(4)
P Hatzoglou c Overton b Siddle	15	(8)
J P McIlroy not out	2	(2)
Extras (lb 1, w 2)	3	
Total (19.4 overs)	**153**	

Fall of wickets 1-21, 2-71, 3-79, 4-94, 5-99, 6-123, 7-129, 8-135, 9-139.

Bowling Overton 3-1-24-1; Henry 2-0-29-1; Siddle 3.4-0-29-2; Van der Merwe 4-0-24-3; Green 4-0-32-1; Gregory 3-0-14-2.

Somerset		(balls)
†T Banton c McIlroy b Douthwaite	54	(28)
W C F Smeed c Ingram b Douthwaite	28	(14)
T Kohler-Cadmore c Ingram b Smith	19	(12)
T B Abell b Smith	22	(17)
T A Lammonby c Kellaway b Douthwaite	0	(2)
*L Gregory c Northeast b McIlroy	11	(11)
B G F Green not out	4	(4)
C Overton not out	2	(2)
Extras (b 4, lb 1, w 7, nb 2)	14	
Total (6 wkts, 14.5 overs)	**154**	

R E Van der Merwe, M J Henry and P M Siddle did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-69, 2-91, 3-116, 4-116, 5-141, 6-149.

Bowling Carlson 1-0-12-0; McIlroy 2.5-0-17-1; Hatzoglou 4-0-50-0; Smith 3-0-34-2; Douthwaite 3-0-26-3; Kellaway 1-0-10-0.

Surrey v Sussex Sharks

Kia Oval (Sussex Sharks won toss): Sussex Sharks (2pts) beat Surrey by five wickets

Surrey		(balls)
W G Jacks c Coles b Crocombe	13	(11)
L J Evans b Mills	23	(18)
*S M Curran c Coles b Lenham	2	(7)
T K Curran c Alsop b Bopara	23	(21)
S P Narine c sub b Bopara	29	(18)
†J L Smith b Bopara	19	(14)
J Clark b Garton	8	(11)
J Overton b Mills	13	(12)
C T Steel run out	1	(5)
T E Lawes run out	0	(0)
D J Worrall not out	0	(0)
Extras (b 6, lb 8, w 3)	17	
Total (19.3 overs)	**148**	

Fall of wickets 1-37, 2-39, 3-49, 4-102, 5-113, 6-126, 7-146, 8-147, 9-148.

Bowling Coles 2-0-20-0; Garton 3.3-0-22-1; Hudson-Prentice 2-0-16-0; Mills 4-0-23-2; Crocombe 2-0-12-1; Lenham 3-0-23-1; Bopara 3-0-18-3.

Sussex		(balls)
T G R Clark c Jacks b Worrall	9	(12)
A G H Orr c Evans b Lawes	24	(15)
T P Alsop not out	51	(42)
*R S Bopara c Smith b Narine	2	(5)
G H S Garton st Smith b Narine	7	(12)
†M G K Burgess c sub b Worrall	48	(28)
J M Coles not out	4	(5)
Extras (lb 3, w 1)	4	
Total (5 wkts, 19.5 overs)	**149**	

F J Hudson-Prentice, T S Mills, A D Lenham and H T Crocombe did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-29, 2-36, 3-39, 4-56, 5-133.

Bowling Jacks 3-0-29-0; Worrall 4-0-36-2; Curran 4-0-24-0; Lawes 3.5-0-32-1; Narine 4-1-18-2; Steel 1-0-7-0.

	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	RR
Somerset	3	3	0	0	0	**6**	2.59
Surrey	3	2	1	0	0	**4**	1.86
Kent	2	1	1	0	0	**2**	0.50
Sussex	2	1	1	0	0	**2**	-0.07
Glamorgan	2	1	1	0	0	**2**	-1.00
Hampshire	2	1	1	0	0	**2**	-1.84
Essex	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	0
Gloucs	2	0	2	0	0	**0**	-1.66
Middlesex	2	0	2	0	0	**0**	-2.38

Charlotte Edwards Cup: Taunton South East Stars 126-6 (20 overs); Western Storm 121 (19.5 overs). ***SE Stars (4pts) won by five runs***. **Headingley** Northern Diamonds 172-7 (20 overs); Sunrisers 137 (18.4 overs: G Scrivens 50; K A Levick 5 for 19). ***Diamonds (5pts) won by 35 runs***. **Played Saturday: Emirates Old Trafford** Sunrisers 116-8 (20 overs); Thunder 119-3 (16.3). ***Thunder (4pts) won by seven wickets***.

Cycling

Giro d’Italia

Leading final positions: 21st stage (Rome, 126km): 1, M Cavendish (GB, Astana-Qazaqstan Team) 2hr 48min 26sec; 2, A Kirsch (Lux, Trek-Segafredo); 3, F Fiorelli (It, Green Project-Bardiani-CSF-Faizan); 4, A Dainese (It, Team DSM); 5, A Krieger (Ger, Alpecin-Deceuninck); 6, J Stewart (GB, Groupama-FDJ) all same time. **Overall** 1, P Roglic (Slove, Jumbo-Visma) 85:29:02; 2, G Thomas (GB, INEOS Grenadiers) at 14sec behind; 3, J Almeida (Por, UAE Team Emirates) 1min 15sec; 4, D Caruso (It, Bahrain Victorious) 4:40; 5, T Pinot (Fr, Groupama-FDJ) 5:43; 6, T Arensman (Neth, INEOS Grenadiers) 6:05; 7, E Dunbar (Ire, Team Jayco-AlUla) 7:30; 8, A Leknessund (Nor, Team DSM) 7:31; 9, L Kämna (Ger, BORA-hansgrohe) 7:46; 10, L De Plus (Bel, INEOS Grenadiers) 9:08.

Golf

US PGA Tour Charles Schwab Challenge

Fort Worth, Texas: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated): **200** H Hall (Eng) 62, 66, 72; A Schenk 66, 67, 67. **201** H English 65, 66, 70. **204** E Grillo (Arg) 67, 65, 72; J Suh 68, 70, 66. **205** An Byeong-hun (S Kor) 67, 66, 72; V Hovland (Nor) 71, 68, 66; D Lipsky 67, 69, 69; K Streelman 68, 69, 68. **206** B Harman 70, 69, 67; B Martin 69, 69, 68; A Putnam 66, 70, 70; A Rai (Eng) 71, 68, 67; C Ramey 68, 69, 69; S Scheffler 67, 67, 72.

DP World Tour KLM Dutch Open

Cromvoirt: Leading final scores (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): **275** P Larrazábal (Sp) 66, 73, 67, 69. **277** A Otaegui (Sp) 67, 71, 69, 70. **278** R Hoejgaard (Den) 69, 71, 67, 71; D Germishuys (SA) 70, 71, 68, 69. **279** A Meronk (Pol) 69, 70, 69, 71; D Hillier (NZ) 70, 67, 71, 71; K Aphibarnrat (Thai) 67, 73, 70, 69. **281** E Ferguson 71, 71, 71, 68; R Caron (Neth) 72, 68, 71, 70; G Green (Malaysia) 69, 70, 69, 73; G Forrest 70, 72, 70, 69.

Bank of Hope LPGA Match-Play

Las Vegas: Quarter-finals P Anannarukarn (Thai) bt C Ciganda (Sp) 3 and 2; L Grant (Swe) bt A Valenzuela (Switz) 3 and 1; A Furue (Japan) bt C Boutier (Fr) 2 and 1; L Maguire (Ire) bt L Weaver-Wright (US) 3 and 2. **Semi-finals** Furue bt Maguire 2 and 1; Anannarukarn bt Grant 3 and 1.

Women’s European Tour Mithra Belgian Open

Wanze: Leading final scores: 205 P Schmidt (Ger) 71, 68, 66. **207** C Noja (Ger) 69, 70, 68; M Hernández (Sp) 69, 67, 71. **208** O Cowan (Ger) 69, 71, 68. **209** C Manzalini (It) 71, 67, 71. **210** M de Roey (Bel) 69, 71, 70; A Sauzon (Fr) 70, 73, 67; D Dagar (India) 71, 67, 72; V Knecht (Switz) 68, 73, 69; C Liautier (Fr) 70, 70, 70; M Prat (Sp) 68, 71, 71. **211** L Humphreys 71, 68, 72; C Angurasaranee (Thai) 73, 71, 67.

Rugby league

Betfred Super League Salford Red Devils 29 Hull 22.

Betfred Championship Keighley Cougars 18 Bradford Bulls 42; Halifax Panthers 12 Batley Bulldogs 20; Newcastle Thunder 32 Sheffield Eagles 38. **Played Saturday** Featherstone Rovers 46 York City Knights 16; London Broncos 14 Toulouse 10; Whitehaven 16 Barrow Raiders 32; Widnes Vikings 38 Swinton Lions 6. **League One** Cornwall 10 North Wales Crusaders 42; Dewsbury Rams 52 London Skolars 6; Hunslet 36 Rochdale Hornets 18; Midlands Hurricanes 16 Oldham 50.

Women’s Super League: Group one Huddersfield Giants 20 Wigan Warriors 30; York Valkyrie 44 Warrington Wolves 4. **Group two** Barrow 42 Bradford Bulls 0; Salford Red Devils 10 Leigh Leopards 58.

Rugby union

Gallagher Premiership final Saracens 35 Sale Sharks 25 (at Twickenham).

United Rugby Championship final Stormers 14 Munster 19.

Women’s Allianz Premier 15s Harlequins 81 DMP Sharks 10; Saracens 48 Bristol Bears 38. **Played Saturday** Exeter Chiefs 82 Wasps 7; Sale Sharks 14 Gloucester-Hartpury 48.

Tennis

French Open

Roland Garros, Paris: First round (seeds in brackets): **Men** S Ofner (Austria) bt M Cressy (US) 6-4, 7-6 (8-6), 6-2; R Albot (Mold) bt P Kypson (US) 6-3, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1; T Kokkinakis (Aus) bt (20) D Evans (GB) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4; T Griekspoor (Neth) bt P Martínez (Sp) 6-4, 2-6, 0-6, 7-5, 6-3; (13) H Hurkacz (Pol) bt D Goffin (Bel) 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4; (11) K Khachano (Russ) bt C Lestienne (Fr) 3-6, 1-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-3; M Fucsovics (Hun) bt H Grenier (Fr) 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-3; (5) S Tsitsipas (Gr) bt J Vesely (Cz) 7-5, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (9-7); (24) S Korda (US) bt M McDonald (US) 6-4, 7-5, 6-4; J Kubler (Aus) bt F Diaz Acosta (Arg) 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1; M Arnaldi (It) bt D Elahi Galán (Col) 2-6, 6-3, 6-0, 6-2; N Borges (Por) bt J Isner (US) 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (7-3), 4-6, 7-6 (11-9); R Carballés Baena (Sp) bt E Nava (US) 7-6 (7-5), 6-3, 6-2; (17) L Musetti (It) bt M Ymer (Swe) 7-5, 6-2, 6-4; (7) A Rublev (Russ) bt L Djere (Serbia) 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; L Sonego (It) bt (30) B Shelton (US) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; U Humbert (Fr) bt A Mannarino (Fr) 6-3, 6-3, 6-1; C Moutet (Fr) bt A Cazaux (Fr) 6-1, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4; L Pouille (Fr) bt J Rodionov (Austria) 6-2, 6-4, 6-3; A Shevchenko (Russ) bt O Otte (Ger) 7-5, 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7-2). **Women** M Frech (Pol) bt (29) Zhang Shuai (China) 6-1, 6-1; N Podoroska (Arg) bt J Ponchet (Fr) 6-0, 6-2; (2) A Sabalenka (Bela) bt M Kostyuk (Ukr) 6-3, 6-2; S Hunter (Aus) bt N Parrizas Diaz (Sp) 4-6, 6-2, 6-4; I Shymanovich (Bela) bt P Udvardy (Hun) 6-7 (6-8), 6-3, 6-1; K Rakhimova (Russ) bt S Bejlek (Cz) 6-0, 6-3; (28) E Mertens (Bel) bt V Hruncakova (Slovakia) 6-1, 6-4; K Muchova (Cz) bt (8) M Sakkari (Gr) 7-6 (7-5), 7-5; L Fernandez (Can) bt (21) M Linette (Pol, 6-3, 1-6, 6-3; (19) Zheng Qinwen (China) bt T Zidansek (Slovenia) 6-3, 6-1; C Giorgi (It) bt A Cornet (Fr) 6-3, 6-4; C Tauson (Den) bt A Sasnovich (Bela) 6-2, 6-0; (24) A Potapova (Russ) bt T Townsend (US) 6-1, 6-2; L Jeanjean (Fr) bt K Birrell (Aus) 6-4, 6-7 (6-8), 6-3; M Sherif (Egy) bt M Brengle (US) 6-3, 6-1; S Errani (It) bt J Teichmann (Switz) 3-6, 6-4, 6-2; (27) I-C Begu (Rom) bt A Bondar (Hun) 6-4, 6-2; (15) L Samsonova (Russ) bt K Volynets (US) 6-0, 6-1; (3) J Pegula (US) bt D Collins (US) 6-4, 6-2.

Angry Evans in foot-fault spat during tame defeat

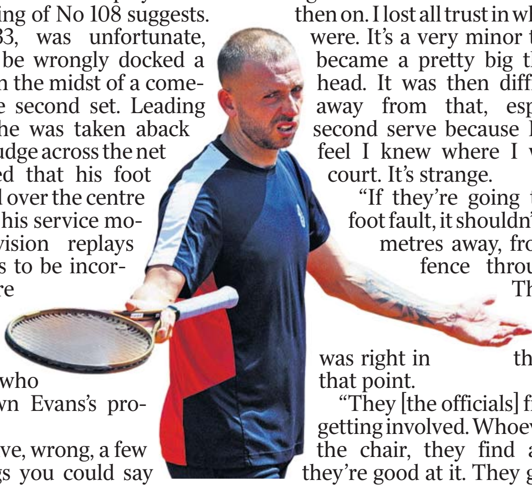
Thanasi Kokkinakis (Aus)	6	6	6
Dan Evans (GB, 20)	4	4	4

Stuart Fraser Tennis Correspondent

Dan Evans did not leave the French Open quietly after a first-round exit. The British No 2 criticised officials for incorrectly calling a foot fault, repeated his concerns about the elitist nature of British tennis and lambasted the "shocking" level of his own game.

Seeded No 20 here, Evans produced one of his most disappointing performances in what has been a very inconsistent season. He lost 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 to the Australian wild card Thanasi Kokkinakis, who is a far better player than his world ranking of No 108 suggests.

Evans, 33, was unfortunate, though, to be wrongly docked a first serve in the midst of a comeback in the second set. Leading 4-2, 30-0, he was taken aback that a line judge across the net had deemed that his foot had crossed over the centre line during his service motion. Television replays showed this to be incorrect but were not available to the chair umpire, who turned down Evans's protests.



"Disruptive, wrong, a few other things you could say about it," Evans told reporters afterwards. "The players are held responsible, but the umpires and line judges are not held responsible."

Evans immediately lost his momentum with a double fault and handed the break back to his opponent before hitting a water bottle with his racket in anger, which resulted in a warning for unsportsmanlike conduct that will likely end in a fine of several thousand pounds from his first-round loser's cheque of £60,000. Noticeably, he never again looked confident on his serve.

"I knew it was a rule, but I tend to know where my feet are, where I'm standing," Evans said. "It obviously threw me quite a bit. My technique sort of got thrown out. It was difficult from then on. I lost all trust in where my feet were. It's a very minor thing, but it became a pretty big thing in my head. It was then difficult to get away from that, especially on second serve because I just didn't feel I knew where I was on the court. It's strange.

"If they're going to call that foot fault, it shouldn't be from 35 metres away, from fence to fence through a net. That's not the reason I lost, but I was right in the match at that point.

"They [the officials] find a way of getting involved. Whoever it is up in the chair, they find a way, and they're good at it. They get involved plenty. They need to look back at Rome [where there were several officiating errors]. They get involved on this surface when there's really no need to."

Forty-eight hours after Evans claimed that Emma Raducanu's 2021 US Open triumph "papered over the cracks" in British tennis, he was watched by two LTA staff members — Leon Smith, the head of men's tennis, and Michael Bourne, the performance director — from courtside. But he revealed that no one has yet reached out to discuss his concerns.

"The problem with it all is everybody takes it personally," Evans said. "It's not anything personal. If you're taking it personally, then maybe you're guilty of what I'm saying. Maybe there's some guilt in there that you're not putting in the effort or something if that is the case.

"I voice my opinions because I want younger children, working-class kids to get the support they deserve. In any other sport when people voice their opinions about a system, it goes forward, but in tennis, because we're so elitist in England, it doesn't get put forward. I'm doing it for working-class people like I was.

"I just don't think there's a chance for people from working-class backgrounds to get into the sport and get a chance if their parents don't have money. They [the LTA] think I do it against them. I'm just asking for things to be a bit different, more people to have a chance to get funded."

In the immediate term, Evans is eager to focus on improving his own game. He has now lost 15 of 23 matches this season and is particularly frustrated with his performances at key tournaments despite a respectable world ranking of No 25, only three places below his career-high position.

"I've got my own battles to deal with on the court," Evans said. "I've got to get my game in a spot where I'm able to compete at this level. I've been very poor in the big tournaments this year.

"I said the other day there's some soul-searching. There will be plenty of that in Saint-Cloud tonight, or wherever I am. It's shocking how I played today. It's disappointing. It's not good enough."

ANDY CHEUNG/GETTY IMAGES; JAVIER GARCIA/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK ;

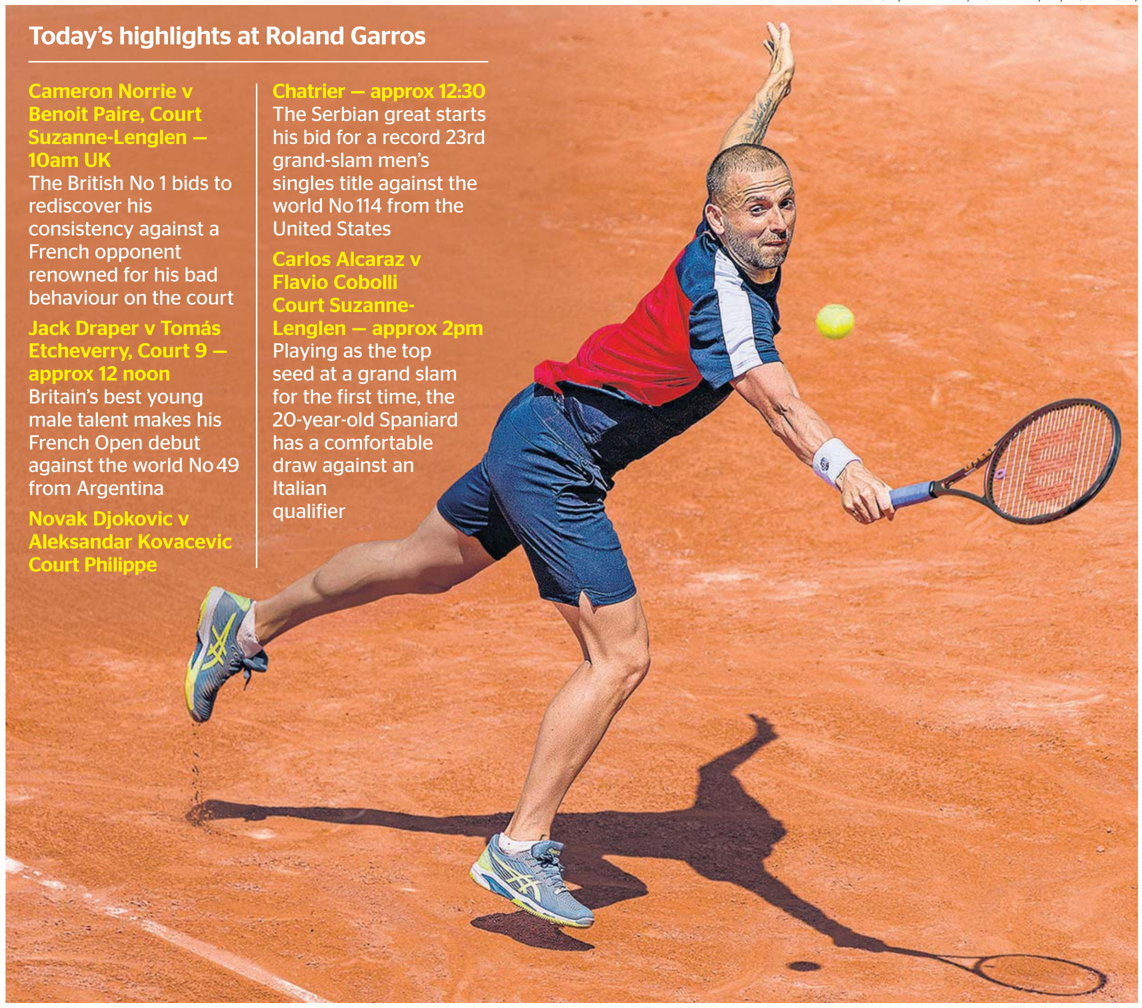
Today's highlights at Roland Garros

Cameron Norrie v Benoit Paire, Court Suzanne-Lenglen — 10am UK
The British No 1 bids to rediscover his consistency against a French opponent renowned for his bad behaviour on the court

Jack Draper v Tomás Etcheverry, Court 9 — approx 12 noon
Britain's best young male talent makes his French Open debut against the world No 49 from Argentina

Novak Djokovic v Aleksandar Kovacevic Court Philippe Chatrier — approx 12:30
The Serbian great starts his bid for a record 23rd grand-slam men's singles title against the world No 114 from the United States

Carlos Alcaraz v Flavio Cobolli Court Suzanne-Lenglen — approx 2pm
Playing as the top seed at a grand slam for the first time, the 20-year-old Spaniard has a comfortable draw against an Italian qualifier



Evans lambasted the officials after his loss and also accused the LTA of failing to support working-class families in tennis

Ukrainian player booed after not shaking hand of Belarusian

Marta Kostyuk (Ukr)	3	2
Aryna Sabalenka (Bela, 2)	6	6

Stuart Fraser

A Ukrainian player said that "people should be embarrassed" after her refusal to shake hands with her Belarusian opponent was greeted by boos in the first main-stadium match of this year's French Open.

Marta Kostyuk, the 20-year-old world No 39, has previously turned down the traditional post-match gesture with players from Russia and Belarus because of the invasion by military forces in her home country. This did not change yesterday when she ignored Aryna Sabalenka, the world No 2 from Belarus, after losing 6-3, 6-2 in 71 minutes.

A bizarre few minutes then followed, during which Sabalenka, 25, mistakenly thought that boos from some members of the crowd on Court Philippe Chatrier were for her, when they were actually rather harshly directed at Kostyuk. Sabalenka sarcastically bowed in response.

Sabalenka was then heard asking the umpire for clarification over the target of the boos before a member of her coaching team gestured at her to wave to all four corners of the stadium. In the meantime, Kostyuk walked off the court to further boos.

"What happened today, I have to say I didn't expect it," Kostyuk said. "People should be honestly embarrassed, but this is not my call.

"I want to see people react to it in ten years when the war is over. I think they will not feel really nice about what they did."

Scheduled first on at 11am, Kostyuk had woken at 5am to news that her home city of Kyiv had come under attack from 54 Russian drones. She last visited in March but her father and grandfather continue to live there. "When I see some [chat] groups that have a lot of notifications throughout the night, I know that something happened," Kostyuk said. "It's something I cannot describe probably. I try to put my emotions aside any time I go out on court. I think I'm better than before, and I don't think it affects me as much on a daily basis. It's just part of my life."

Sabalenka admitted that she initially "couldn't understand what's going on" with the crowd reaction, but said it was "not a surprise" that Kostyuk did not shake hands.

"Probably for the public today, they were surprised," Sabalenka said. "They saw it as disrespect for me as a player, so that's why it was booing for her. I understand why they are not shaking hands with us. I can imagine if they shake hands with us, then what's going to happen to them from the Ukrainian side. She didn't deserve to leave the court that way."

Sabalenka then faced a long and detailed question from a Ukrainian journalist in her press conference, which mentioned the possibility of her becoming a role model as the potential new world No 1 this fortnight, and asking whether she would directly condemn the invasion.

"Nobody in this world, Russian athletes or Belarusian athletes, support the war," Sabalenka said. "How can we support the war? Nobody, normal people will never support it. If it could affect the war, if it could stop it, we would do it. But unfortunately, it's not in our hands."

In response, Kostyuk stated her belief that Sabalenka did not go far enough in making her condemnation clear. "She never says that she personally doesn't support this war," Kostyuk said. "I feel like you [journalists] should ask these players who they want to win the war because if you ask this question, I'm not so sure these people will say that they want Ukraine to win.

"She should talk for herself, first of all. I personally know athletes from tennis that support the war. To say nobody [supports it] is a little bit strong because I think you can only speak for yourself."

Noticeably, there was also no traditional photograph of the two players with a ballboy or ballgirl at the start of the first-round match. The actual tennis passed by without incident, with an entertaining, closely fought first set before Sabalenka, who is bidding to add the French Open to her maiden grand-slam triumph at the Australian Open this year, broke serve for 5-3 and raced to victory from there.







Kostyuk, in blue, shook the umpire's hand but ignored Sabalenka

Redcar
Rob Wright

1.45 Muddy Lynn
2.15 Happier
2.50 Taygar
3.25 Grandad Bob
4.00 Oviedo
4.36 Strawman (nb)
5.10 Bearwith
5.40 Bollin Margaret

Going: good to firm, good in places **Racing TV**
Draw: no advantage

1.45 Handicap (£3,664: 7f) (15 runners)
1 (12) 63-65 **DANDYS DERRIERE** 13 (T) O Greenall & J Guerriero 5-9-11 **A Rawlinson**
2 (4) 00-00 **RED ASTAIRE** 30 (P) T Easterby 4-9-8 **D Allan**
3 (2) 06-64 **KYBER CRYSTAL** 16 Alexandra Dunn 4-9-8 **M Crehan (3)**
4 (14) 030/0 **SECRET DAAY** 21 D Thompson 4-9-7 **P Mathers**
5 (7) -0056 **THRAVE** 26 (V,D) M Appleby 8-9-7 **Joanna Mason**
6 (6) 06251 **DANZART** 9 (H) Mrs Stella Barclay 5-9-6 **S James**
7 (5) 35-00 **MUDDY LYNN** 21 S Spencer 4-9-4 **Dale Swift**
8 (1) 03-05 **VARIETY ISLAND** 13 (P) Simon Whitaker 4-9-4 **P Dennis**
9 (10) 0-605 **DARKER** 20 R Carr 4-9-3 **JP Sullivan**
10 (8) 43000 **IRELAND'S EYE** 9 (B,T) D Carroll 5-9-0 **H Shaw**
11 (11) 31304 **JEMS BOND** 21 (P,BF,D) A Brown 6-8-13 **R Scott**
12 (3) 005-2 **RED COMMAND** 13 T Waggott 4-8-12 **C Beasley**
13 (9) 6-006 **RUM RUNNER** 13 (D) G Harker 8-8-12 **J Peate (3)**
14 (15) 000-4 **RATAFIA** 31 M Herrington 5-8-11 **T Eaves**
15 (13) 0-000 **LIL BIT OF MAGIC** 55 (B) Simon Whitaker 4-8-11 **Mark Winn (5)**

5-2 Danzart, 4-1 Red Command, 11-2 Jems Bond, 8-1 Ratafia, Darker, 10-1 Dandys Derriere, 12-1 Variety Island, Thrave.

Rob Wright's choice: Muddy Lynn found six furlongs too sharp at Ayr **Dangers** Red Command, Ireland's Eye

2.15 Maiden Stakes (3-Y-O: £4,320: 6f) (8)
1 (6) 3 **ROOSKA** 24 G Tuer 9-7 **S James**
2 (5) 2 **DALTON LANE** 95 Phillip Makin 9-5 **R Scott**
3 (8) 04 **NAUTICAL DREAM** 18 Jessica Macey 9-5 **H Shaw**
4 (2) 5 **ELIZABETH'S JOY** 14 Mrs A Duffield 9-2 **S Gray**
5 (1) 60 **HOLD ON TOGETHER** 6 J Goldie 9-2 **C Hardie**
6 (7) **DUSTY RUG** J J Quinn 9-0 **J Hart**
7 (3) 62 **HAPPIER** 18 T Easterby 9-0 **D Allan**
8 (4) 0 **MISSMIMI** 18 Miss T Jackson 9-0 **G Lee**

9-4 Dalton Lane, 11-4 Rooska, 3-1 Happier, 8-1 Elizabeth's Joy, Nautical Dream, 12-1 Dusty Rug, 33-1 Hold On Together, 50-1 Missmimi.

Wright choice: Happier improved when second at Thirsk; more to come **Dangers** Rooska, Nautical Dream

2.50 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £4,320: 5f) (15)
1 (8) 1 **HALA EMARAATY** 17 (D) Alice Haynes 9-7 **T Hammer Hansen**
2 (13) **BIG EVS** M Appleby 9-4 **J Hart**
3 (1) **BLOW ME AWAY** S C Williams 9-4 **R Dawson**
4 (11) **DURAN** N Tinkler 9-4 **R Scott**
5 (5) **JUNGLE MAC** Jack Channon 9-4 **C Rodriguez**
6 (9) **OUR HAVANA** R Fahey 9-4 **D Nolan**
7 (12) 4 **ROCK LODGE** 7 Phillip Makin 9-4 **S Gray**
8 (10) **SEAHORSE SYD** O Pears 9-4 **G Lee**
9 (14) **SEVEN QUESTIONS** G Scott 9-4 **Billy Loughnane (3)**
10 (4) 16 **TAYGAR** 26 (BF,D) M Dods 9-4 **C Beasley**
11 (6) **MR IRRELEVANT** G Tuer 9-2 **S James**
12 (2) 40 **NORTHERN PRINCE** 13 T Easterby 9-2 **D Allan**
13 (3) 54 **TORVAR** 21 D O'Meara 9-2 **D Tudhope**
14 (7) **LADY IN HAVANA** Miss A Murphy 8-13 **C Hardie**
15 (15) 0 **ZAPHEA** 50 R Fell 8-9 **H Shaw**

5-2 Hala Emaraaty, 4-1 Taygar, 7-1 Seven Questions, 8-1 Our Havana, Jungle Mac, 14-1 Torvar, 16-1 Rock Lodge, Duran.

Wright choice: Taygar was much too keen early on when below par at Pontefract **Dangers** Hala Emaraaty, Duran

3.25 Handicap (3-Y-O: £4,187: 5f) (9)
1 (4) 212-0 **CASTAN** 47 (D) B Smart 9-9 **H Shaw**
2 (1) 213-0 **SPARKLING RED** 37 (D) M Dods 9-9 **C Beasley**
3 (8) 153 **TYKE** 20 M Appleby 9-9 **A Rawlinson**
4 (7) 350-5 **BOROUGH** 22 I Jardine 9-1 **Mark Winn (5)**
5 (3) 050-0 **JUNGLE FEVER** 14 (D) Charlie Johnston 9-0 **J Fanning**
6 (6) 550-2 **GRANDAD BOB** 47 P Midgley 8-13 **G Lee**
7 (9) 6-612 **CAVALIER APPROACH** 14 (D) R Carr 8-10 **P Hanagan**
8 (2) 43-56 **STORM FOX** 30 T Easterby 8-9 **D Allan**
9 (5) 0-004 **CUBAN ROCK** 14 J Goldie 8-6 **C Hardie**

100-30 Cavalier Approach, 7-2 Grandad Bob, 13-2 Tyke, Castan, Cuban Rock, 15-2 Sparkling Red, 10-1 Borough, 12-1 Storm Fox, 16-1 Jungle Fever.

Wright choice: Grandad Bob had a breathing operation before a good second at Redcar **Dangers** Castan, Tyke

4.00 Zetland Gold Cup
(Handicap: £24,300: 1m 2f) (9)
1 (9) 0210- **KITSUNE POWER** 247 (D) R Varian 4-9-12 **R Dawson**
2 (6) 511-0 **TURNTABLE** 23 (D) Harry Eustace 7-9-10 **Kaiya Fraser (7)**
3 (8) 000-0 **CAP FRANCAIS** 49 I Williams 7-9-7 **D Tudhope**
4 (1) 11160 **WAR IN HEAVEN** 52 M Appleby 4-9-5 **A Rawlinson**
5 (5) 0-036 **BARYSHNIKOV** 17 (D) D & N Barron 7-9-4 **C Beasley**
6 (2) 22-31 **CITY STREAK** 18 (D) A Balding 4-9-1 **G Lee**
7 (7) 300-6 **OVIEDO** 52 E Bethell 3-8-11 **C Rodriguez**
8 (4) 00-51 **PILLAR OF HOPE** 32 (CD) Charlie Johnston 5-8-11 **J Fanning**
9 (3) 30-30 **HIGHWAYGREY** 21 (D) T Easterby 7-8-5 **C Hardie**

3-1 City Streak, 5-1 Pillar Of Hope, 11-2 Baryshnikov, Kitsune Power, Oviedo, 13-2 Turntable, 12-1 War In Heaven, 14-1 Highwaygrey, 33-1 Cap Francais.

Wright choice: Oviedo should appreciate this stiffer test of stamina **Dangers** Pillar Of Hope, City Streak

4.36 Handicap (£5,051: 1m 2f) (8)
1 (5) 155-2 **WOOTTON'SUN** 35 (D) R Fahey 4-9-9 **C Hardie**
2 (3) 312- **DUKEMAN** 246 S & E Crisford 4-9-8 **T Eaves**
3 (1) 50-10 **EEETEE** 10 (CD) D O'Meara 5-9-7 **D Tudhope**
4 (8) 33-30 **STRAWMAN** 12 (CD) Gemma Tutty 6-9-7 **C Beasley**
5 (4) -5232 **DAHEER** 27 (T) M Loughnane 6-9-5 **Billy Loughnane (3)**
6 (7) 4-300 **THE MENSTONE GEM** 13 (B,D) Craig Lidster 4-9-4 **S James**
7 (6) 310-3 **VERY EXCELLENT** 13 M Sowersby 7-9-1 **G Lee**
8 (2) 00-00 **JEWEL MAKER** 13 (D) T Easterby 8-8-12 **D Allan**

2-1 Dukeman, 11-4 Wootton'sun, 4-1 Daheer, 6-1 Eeetee, 7-1 others.

Wright choice: Strawman runs off a 1lb lower mark than when taking this last year **Dangers** Dukeman, Wootton'sun

5.10 Handicap (Div I: £3,664: 1m 2f) (9)
1 (3) 005-0 **JUST HISS** 26 (P,D) T Easterby 10-9-11 **Brandon Wilkie (7)**
2 (7) -6165 **CUSACK** 21 (P,D) D Thompson 5-9-10 **D Allan**
3 (4) 320-1 **BEARWITH** 21 (C,D) H Bethell 5-9-9 **C Hardie**
4 (9) 000-0 **MOTARAJEL** 28 (P) T Easterby 6-9-8 **D Fentiman**
5 (1) 060-6 **THE NEW MARWAN** 18 (P,D) R Fahey 6-9-6 **D Nolan**
6 (6) 0-000 **ALHABOR** 18 (B) R Carr 4-9-4 **JP Sullivan**
7 (8) -6600 **ICE SHADOW** 20 A Brown 4-9-3 **R Scott**
8 (2) 050-6 **THOMAS CRANMER** 27 (D) Miss T Jackson 9-8-10 **Joanna Mason**
9 (5) 405-0 **SKEDADDLED** 14 R Barr 5-8-9 **C Beasley**

5-4 Bearwith, 100-30 Cusack, 8-1 Ice Shadow, Thomas Cranmer, 12-1 The New Marwan, Motarajel, Just Hiss, 25-1 Skedaddled, 33-1 Alhabor.

Wright choice: Bearwith, fair on the all-weather, looks well in back on turf **Dangers** Motarajel, The New Marwan

5.40 Handicap (Div II: £3,664: 1m 2f) (9)
1 (2) 05-45 **BOLLIN MARGARET** 17 (P,CD) T Easterby 6-9-10 **D Allan**
2 (8) -3040 **YELLOW BEAR** 18 (T) D Carroll 4-9-10 **H Shaw**
3 (3) 50065 **RUMNOTRED** 14 Mrs Stella Barclay 4-9-9 **S Gray**
4 (4) 65-33 **STREETSCAPE** 76 D & N Barron 4-9-8 **C Beasley**
5 (9) 05-53 **WHEAL KITTY** 14 J Bedi 4-9-6 **Paula Muir (3)**
6 (6) 40414 **IRON SHERIFF** 13 (D) R Fell 5-9-4 **J Peate (3)**
7 (7) 35621 **OUR DICKIE** 10 (P,T) I Jardine 4-8-13 **J Hart**
8 (1) 4000- **ISLA DIAMONDS** J23 M Sowersby 8-8-9 **G Lee**
9 (5) 0-045 **MAD ARTYMAISE** 21 G Boanas 4-8-9 **J Fanning**

3-1 Our Dickie, 100-30 Streetscape, 4-1 Iron Sheriff, 5-1 Wheal Kitty, 6-1 Bollin Margaret, 12-1 Yellow Bear, 14-1 Rumnotred, 20-1 others.

Wright choice: Bollin Margaret failed to handle heavy ground at Ripon **Dangers** Wheal Kitty, Streetscape

Cartmel
Rob Wright

2.20 Titanium Moon
2.55 Tiger Jet
3.30 Chirico Vallis
4.05 Lermoos Legend
4.40 Gaelik Coast
5.15 So Be It
5.45 Wearelongterm

Going: good **Racing TV**

2.20 Novices' Hurdle (£3,812: 2m 1f) (12)
1 /261- **FOREVER A DOVE** 36 J Coulson 5-11-9 **Toby Wynne (5)**
2 0600- **ARAGLEN STAR** 31 G Hanmer 6-11-2 **K Brogan**
3 5-5 **BLEUE VERTE** 28 (T) R Hobson 5-11-2 **K Woods**
4 2-0 **CALLIN BATON ROUGE** 19 W Greatrex 5-11-2 **B J Powell**
5 PP- **CIVIL JUSTICE GONE** 208 F Murtagh 5-11-2 **R Chapman**
6 2220- **COME ON DU BERLAIS** 252 F O'Brien 5-11-2 **L Harrison (3)**
7 FP/5- **DIANA PRINCE** 50 P Midgley 7-11-2 **T Midgley (3)**
8 0P- **HANNAH'S WALK** 152 (H,T) O Greenall & J Guerriero 5-11-2 **H Brooke**
9 0- **LOOSE MOOSE** 66 H Graham & G Rutherford 5-11-2 **S Coltherd**
10 10/6- **RIVER OF JOY** 35 P Bowen 6-11-2 **S Bowen**
11 2 **TITANIUM MOON** 16 D McCain 5-11-2 **B Hughes**
12 U **WHY NOT DREAM** 19 R Dobbin 5-11-2 **D Johnston (7)**

2-1 Titanium Moon, 11-4 Come On Du Berlais, 7-2 Forever A Dove, 13-2 River Of Joy, 10-1 Callin Baton Rouge, 16-1 Bleue Verte, 25-1 others.

2.55 Handicap Hurdle (£18,210: 3m 1f) (11)
1 224-2 **HILLVIEW** 9 G Hanmer 7-12-0 **S Bowen**
2 163-1 **I SPY A DIVA** 16 K Bailey 6-11-10 **D Bass**
3 0032- **ARAMAX** 38 (P,T) B Haslam 7-11-7 **R McLernon**
4 F0P3- **MINELLA ESCAPE** 43 J Moffatt 8-11-6 **L Norcei (10)**
5 P524- **MY BOBBY DAZZLER** 51 (D) M Rowley 8-11-1 **A Edwards**
6 061-6 **TIGER JET** 16 B Ellison 7-10-12 **H Brooke**
7 4012- **LANGDALE LANE** 38 S Crawford (Ire) 6-10-11 **B Hughes**
8 62-11 **SCRUM DIDDLY** 7 (P) O Sherwood 5-10-10(7ex) **B J Powell**
9 1234- **MR YEATS** 189 (P) M Harris 6-10-8 **B Harris (5)**
10 PF0F- **MOONLIGHT SPIRIT** 32 (P) J Moffatt 7-10-6 **Charlotte Jones (3)**
11 0210- **OUR SAM** 74 (T,D) J Moffatt 7-10-2 **D McMenamin**

7-2 Scrum Diddly, 9-2 I Spy A Diva, 6-1 Aramax, Langdale Lane, 13-2 Hillview, 8-1 Mr Yeats, 12-1 My Bobby Dazzler, Tiger Jet.

3.30 Handicap Chase (£7,473: 3m 5f) (8)
1 P52P- **IRISH PROPHECY** 205 (P,T) E Lavelle 10-12-0 **T Bellamy**
2 31P-0 **ORGANDI** 10 R Phillips 11-11-11 **A Wedge**
3 /303- **CHIRICO VALLIS** 65 (P,T) N Mulholland 11-11-6 **R McLernon**
4 21-21 **DUC DE BEAUCHENE** 20 (B,T,D) D Pipe 10-11-5 **J Tudor**
5 03P-5 **DALLAS DES PICTONS** 2 (B) D Sayer 10-11-3 **H Brooke**
6 P361- **STYLISH MOMENT** 51 (T) L Russell 10-10-13 **P W Wadge (5)**
7 5/6P- **MANWELL** 171 (T) S England 13-10-10 **J England**
8 112-5 **DEE STAR** 14 (P,T,C) G Hanmer 10-10-2 **S Bowen**

7-2 Stylish Moment, 4-1 Duc De Beauchene, 9-2 Chirico Vallis, 5-1 Dee Star, 6-1 Irish Prophecy, 7-1 Organdi, 14-1 Dallas Des Pictons, 16-1 Manwell.

4.05 Handicap Chase (£7,102: 2m 1f) (6)
1 6414- **RETURN TICKET** 37 (P,T,D) R Menzies 10-12-0 **Sean Quinlan**
2 232-0 **ARTHUR'S QUAY** 21 (T,D) B Haslam 9-11-3 **R McLernon**
3 532-U **SAO** 16 (H,T) R Menzies 9-10-10 **B Hughes**
4 PP0-1 **AND THE NEW** 7 (P,T) L Morgan 12-10-8(7ex) **A Wedge**
5 4101- **WHODINI** 38 (T,D) O Greenall & J Guerriero 6-10-6 **H Brooke**
6 4P5-5 **LERMOOS LEGEND** 20 (P,CD) P Bowen 8-10-2 **S Bowen**

2-1 Whodini, 5-2 And The New, 9-2 Sao, 11-2 Return Ticket, 10-1 Arthur's Quay, 12-1 Lermoos Legend.

4.40 Handicap Chase (£6,575: 2m 5f) (10)
1 61P5- **SLANELOUGH** 42 R Dobbin 11-12-0 **D Johnston (7)**
2 2F60- **GAELIK COAST** 44 (T) D McCain 9-12-0 **B Hughes**
3 31U2- **DE BARLEY BASKET** 205 (T,D) B Pauling 10-11-12 **K Woods**
4 533-1 **MARSHALLED** 13 B Haslam 9-11-9 **R McLernon**
5 2450- **UBETYA** 71 (V) J O'Keeffe 8-11-9 **H Brooke**
6 2P4-P **FIRE AWAY** 14 (T,V,CD) L Morgan 10-11-2 **A Wedge**
7 126-5 **THE PADDY PIE** 9 Sue Smith 10-11-1 **R Chapman**
8 52-36 **TOUCH KICK** 2 (D) S G West 12-10-12 **B Lynn (3)**
9 15P-5 **GETAWAY LUV** 2 Lizzie Quinlan 8-10-11 **Sean Quinlan**
10 50P-P **TONTO'S SPIRIT** 13 (CD) Anna Slack 11-10-8 **C O'Farrell**

5-2 De Barley Basket, 11-4 Marshalled, 8-1 Gaelik Coast, Touch Kick, 10-1 Ubetya, Tonto's Spirit, 14-1 The Paddy Pie, Slanelough, Fire Away, 16-1 Getaway Luv.

5.15 Maiden Hunters' Chase
(£3,422: 2m 5f) (7)
1 41P-P **ARDVIEW BOY** 9 Wyn Morris 14-12-0 **Mr J Waggott (7)**
2 55FF- **MEXICAN BOY** 46 J J O'Shea 7-12-0 **Mr T McCain-Mitchell (7)**
3 F-14P **PILLOWMAN** 9 (V) J Teal 11-12-0 **Mr C Furness (7)**
4 3R-42 **SO BE IT** 12 (T) W Young Jnr 7-12-0 **Mr N Orpwood (3)**
5 PR1-2 **THE CREADAN ROGUE** 8 (BF) J J O'Shea 8-12-0 **Mr H Edwards (7)**
6 2P-U1 **TANORA** 9 A C Wilson 8-11-7 **Mr J Power (7)**
7 514-1 **WALKIN OUT** 22 (H) L Jefford 6-11-7 **Mr J Bament (7)**

2-1 So Be It, 5-2 Walkin Out, 4-1 The Creadan Rogue, 9-2 Mexican Boy, 16-1 Pillowman, Tanora, 33-1 Ardview Boy.

5.45 Handicap Hurdle (£3,200: 2m 6f) (14)
1 P5P-U **COLONEL MANDERSON** 12 (T) W Young Jnr 7-12-1 **S Coltherd**
2 635-4 **WEARELONGTERM** 19 D Sayer 6-11-13 **H Brooke**
3 3654- **BELLS EXPRESS** 31 J Moffatt 6-11-12 **Charlotte Jones (3)**
4 0P32- **BENITO** 45 (CD) Lizzie Quinlan 6-11-12 **Sean Quinlan**
5 U025- **IOLANI** F7 D Sayer 11-11-11 **C O'Farrell**
6 /0P0- **DON BROCCO** 64 (W,P,T) H Graham & G Rutherford 7-11-7 **E Austin (5)**
7 050P- **HUNGRY TIGER** 35 G Bewley 9-11-5 **J Bewley (3)**
8 220U- **CASH AGAIN** 74 (P) B Haslam 11-11-2 **R McLernon**
9 4533- **COUP DE GOLD** F14 (BF) D Thompson 7-10-13 **J Thompson (7)**
10 456-2 **KARAVOMYLOS** 20 P Bowen 4-10-11 **S Bowen**
11 004-0 **THE WHITE VOLCANO** 23 (D) W Storey 11-10-7 **R Chapman**
12 233P- **RED OCHRE** 44 (P) C Grant 10-10-3 **D McMenamin**
13 P40-5 **STRIKE OF LIGHTING** 16 (T) G Bewley 7-10-2 **C Rabbitt (7)**
14 PPP-0 **L'ES FREMANTLE** 17 M Chapman 12-10-2 **D Johnston (7)**

4-1 Benito, 5-1 Colonel Manderson, 13-2 Wearelongterm, Coup De Gold, 7-1 Karavomylos, 8-1 Bells Express, 10-1 Cash Again, 12-1 Iolani.

Huntingdon
Rob Wright

1.35 Catuaba
2.05 Alghazaal
2.40 Iolaos Du Mou
3.15 Lough Carra
3.50 Bluebella
4.25 Miss Antipova
4.55 Red Force One

Going: good **Racing TV**

1.35 Handicap Hurdle (£3,961: 3m 1f) (5)
1 P26-4 **TEL'ART** 18 (P,T) R L Llewellyn 9-12-2 **C Ring**
2 020-1 **CATUABA** 28 (D) C Longsdon 5-11-10 **Lilly Pinchin (3)**
3 430-4 **WHENITRAINSITPOURS** 20 (BF) M Harris 5-11-6 **T Durrell**
4 P3-23 **JACK THE FARMER** 9 (BF) N Hawke 7-10-9 **T Buckley**
5 04-05 **RATOUTE YUTTY** 8 (P,CD) C Fryer 10-10-2 **L Stones**

7-4 Jack The Farmer, 2-1 Catuaba, 9-2 Whenitrainsitpours, 5-1 Tel'art, 14-1 Ratoute Yutty.

2.05 Handicap Chase
(£4,489: 2m 104yd) (7)
1 205-0 **BOREEN BOY** 18 (H,T) O Murphy 7-12-0 **A P Heskin**
2 2134- **CHESS PLAYER** 216 (D) B Pauling 8-12-0 **Beau Morgan (7)**
3 3310- **OBEY THE RULES** 43 (P,D) D McCain 8-11-9 **T Gillard**
4 2446- **HONNEUR DE SIVOLA** 32 (T) C Hobson 6-11-5 **B Poste**
5 45P-1 **ALGHAZAAL** 20 (P,T,D) C Longsdon 6-11-4 **H Cobden**
6 024-0 **BEGOODTOYOURSELF** 20 (B,CD) C Kellett 8-10-3 **C J Todd**
7 /00-0 **MAWLOOD** 20 Georgie Howell 7-10-2 **Tabitha Worsley (3)**

4-6 Alghazaal, 5-2 Chess Player, 12-1 Boreen Boy, 14-1 Obey The Rules, 16-1 Honneur De Sivola, 33-1 Begoodtoyourself, Mawlood.

2.40 Maiden Hurdle (£4,520: 2m) (8)
1 4UP-P **DEE DAY LANDING** 23 M Weatherer 6-11-4 **L Murtagh**
2 U00-P **IMPORTATEUR** 21 (T) S Curran 5-11-4 **James Davies**
3 16-P **IOLAOS DU MOU** 28 (T,BF,D) N Henderson 5-11-4 **N De Boinville**
4 2 **ABSOLUTE RULER** 17 (T) J Candlish 4-10-12 **G Sheehan**
5 6-3 **DEFINITE** 15 (T) M Harris 4-10-12 **H Reed**
6 P- **GAAZOOO** F28 (H) S A Harris 4-10-12 **J Quinlan**
7 **SHABANO** F231 (B,H,T) S Durack 4-10-12 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr**
8 30F-6 **INDELIBLE SPIN** 16 C Longsdon 6-10-11 **B Roberts (5)**

10-11 Iolaos Du Mou, 13-8 Absolute Ruler, 6-1 Definite, 16-1 Shabano, 25-1 Indelible Spin, 100-1 Gaazooo, 150-1 Importateur, 200-1 Dee Day Landing.

3.15 Handicap Chase (£5,809: 2m 4f) (5)
1 /236- **PETRASTAR** 159 (T) D J Jeffreys 8-12-0 **S Twiston-Davies**
2 46-32 **HARDY BOY** 2 (BF) B Pauling 6-11-9 **Luca Morgan**
3 431-0 **TOUGHASOLDBOOTS** 13 D McCain 5-10-11 **T Gillard**
4 34P-6 **LOUGH CARRA** 6 (P,T,BF) J Candlish 6-10-10 **G Sheehan**
5 3/4-0 **HARRY HAZARD** 11 (P) A Irvine 9-10-2 **P Armson (3)**

Evens Hardy Boy, 7-2 Toughasoldboots, 4-1 Lough Carra, 5-1 Petrastar, 33-1 Harry Hazard.

3.50 Handicap Hurdle (£4,225: 2m) (10)
1 30-11 **KINGFAST** 14 (P,D) F O'Brien 8-12-1 **J Hogan (5)**
2 24/2- **FORT DE L'OCEAN** 31 (T,D) M Roberts 8-11-10 **Bryony Frost**
3 642- **ALKHATTAAF** F30 C Down 5-11-8 **James Davies**
4 613-P **EMBOLDEN** 23 C Hobson 6-11-8 **B Roberts (5)**
5 6443- **FOR THREE** 31 (P,D) M Weatherer 9-11-6 **L Murtagh**
6 P004- **AMBASSADOR** 78 (P,D) M Keighley 6-11-6 **J Best**
7 P00-1 **BLUEBELLA** 3 (T,D) T Lacey 5-10-8(7ex) **F Lambert (5)**
8 2566- **DIAMOND JOEL** 37 Sarah Hollinshead 11-10-2 **Tabitha Worsley (3)**
9 54-04 **VISION OF HOPE** 6 (H,T) James Owen 4-10-2 **H Cobden**
10 540P- **MEGALODON** 38 (B,D) P Henderson 10-10-2 **Sean Houlihan**

13-8 Bluebella, 9-4 Kingfast, 6-1 Alkhattaaf, 13-2 Fort De L'Ocean, 14-1 Vision Of Hope, 16-1 For Three, 25-1 Embolden, 33-1 others.

4.25 Handicap Chase (£4,489: 3m) (5)
1 /20P- **FRAU GEORGIA** 43 (P,T,D) N Mulholland 9-12-0 **S Twiston-Davies**
2 40-23 **HENERYETTA BAY** 8 (H) W Greatrex 7-11-1 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr**
3 500P- **HO QUE OUI** 32 Alexandra Dunn 6-10-13 **P Armson (3)**
4 3PP-U **EIGHTYTWO TEAM** 9 (P) C Ellam 7-10-5 **C J Todd**
5 PP2-2 **MISS ANTIPOVA** 14 M Keighley 11-10-4 **J Best**

5-4 Miss Antipova, 7-4 Heneryetta Bay, 5-1 Eightytwo Team, 10-1 Frau Georgia, 20-1 Ho Que Oui.

4.55 Handicap Hurdle (£4,225: 2m 5f) (6)
1 505-2 **RED FORCE ONE** 6 (P) P Kirby 8-12-0 **J Williamson (5)**
2 021-3 **HIGHLAND FROLIC** 15 (T,V) M Harris 4-11-7 **H Cobden**
3 3545- **SINNDARELLA** 37 (D) Sarah Hollinshead 7-11-6 **C Ward (3)**
4 640-5 **BEN BULBEN** 28 (T) R L Llewellyn 6-11-5 **C Ring (3)**
5 002-0 **AWESOME FOURSOME** 23 (T) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-3 **S Twiston-Davies**
6 P56-0 **SOLID FUEL** 17 Joanne Thomason-Murphy 5-10-2 **J Best**

7-4 Highland Frolic, 15-8 Red Force One, 5-1 Sinndarella, 8-1 Awesome Foursome, Ben Bulben, 33-1 Solid Fuel.

Blinkered first time: Huntingdon 2.40 Shabano.
Redcar 1.45 Lil Bit Of Magic. 5.10 Alhabor.
Windsor 4.20 Damascus Steel. 4.20 Ciara Storm.

Leicester
Rob Wright

2.30 Blazer Two
3.05 Bernadine
3.40 Swift Hawk
4.15 Manahanakhon
4.48 Mehme
5.25 Selenachorus
5.55 Angel Of Peace (nap)

Going: good to firm, good in places **Racing TV**
Draw: no advantage

2.30 Apprentice Handicap
(£3,664: 1m 4f) (11)
1 (7) 12305 **CIAO ADIOS** 28 (B) R Hannon 4-9-11 **A Voikhansky (5)**
2 (6) 000-2 **BOBBY KENNEDY** 52 (D) D Coakley 5-9-11 **G Bass**
3 (10) 13-06 **MARBUZET** 21 (B,D) T Easterby 4-9-7 **S B Kirrane**
4 (9) 11550 **SICARIO** 14 (P,D) M Appleby 8-9-6 **F Larson**
5 (3) 04-05 **BOUDICA WARRIOR** 14 S Pearce 4-9-6 **C Howarth (3)**
6 (4) 0500- **BLAZER TWO** 167 (CD) M Scudamore 5-9-6 **C Hutchinson**
7 (5) -4100 **OWENS LAD** 51 (T,D) D Loughnane 5-9-5 **Laura Pearson**
8 (2) 66064 **FOURSOME** 21 Olly Williams 4-9-2 **L Catton (3)**
9 (11) 060-0 **HAPPY COMPANY** J48 (P) J G O'Shea 9-9-0 **Rhiain Ingram**
10 (8) 54-00 **URBAN FOREST** 12 E De Giles 5-9-0 **A Jary (7)**
11 (1) 000-0 **TOPOFTHETRIFLE** 28 Mrs R Ford 4-9-0 **Millie Wonnacott (5)**

5-2 Bobby Kennedy, 9-2 Foursome, Ciao Adios, 13-2 Owens Lad, 10-1 Marbuzet, 12-1 Sicario, Boudica Warrior, 14-1 Urban Forest, Blazer Two.

3.05 Handicap (3-Y-O: £4,187: 1m) (13)
1 (8) 540-4 **TAMALUK** 49 (P) Owen Burrows 9-10 **D O'Neill**
2 (2) 21-5 **CREME CHANTILLY** 27 (D) M Bell 9-10 **H Crouch**
3 (11) 04-2 **OUT OF MISCHIEF** 25 J O'Keeffe 9-9 **J Garritty**
4 (9) 640- **WARREN HILL** 166 (W) R Varian 9-9 **R Da Silva**
5 (12) 0-501 **ZARA'S RETURN** 11 (D) W Stone 9-8 **H Doyle**
6 (13) 00-3 **FOREVER PROUD** 59 James Horton 9-8 **P J McDonald**
7 (7) -2621 **LITTLE HELEN** 38 (D) B Millman 9-8 **R Coakley**
8 (3) 050 **EXPERT WITNESS** 20 (T) Sir M Todd 9-7 **G Rooke**
9 (5) 000-2 **SONEMOS** 40 K P De Foy 9-7 **W Buick**
10 (4) 02-11 **BERNADINE** 110 (D) J Fanshawe 9-6 **R Havlin**
11 (6) 540-5 **HONEYMOONER** 14 W Muir & C Grassick 9-5 **Georgia Dobie (3)**
12 (1) 03-50 **RAVIGILL** 25 A King 9-0 **D Probert**
13 (10) 0400- **BARLOW BARLOW** 244 M Appleby 8-9 **T Ladd**

9-2 Bernadine, 11-2 Zara's Return, 6-1 Sonemos, 13-2 Little Helen, 15-2 Forever Proud, 8-1 Creme Chantilly, Out Of Mischief, 10-1 Tamaluk, Warren Hill.

3.40 Novice Stakes
(3-Y-O: £5,400: 1m 4f) (5)
1 (1) 03 **CRESTA CAT** 18 (P) K P De Foy 9-7 **D Probert**
2 (3) 6325 **DOUBLE OBAN** 18 H Palmer 9-7 **R Coakley**
3 (4) -0653 **INTERGALACTICAT** 34 J Fanshawe 9-7 **W Buick**
4 (5) 5 **SWIFT HAWK** 10 W Knight 9-7 **M Ghiani**
5 (2) 4 **SINDRI** 40 (BF) M Bell 9-2 **H Crouch**

5-2 Double Oban, 3-1 Sindri, 4-1 Cresta Cat, Intergalacticat, 9-2 Swift Hawk.

4.15 Handicap (£5,234: 1m) (10)
1 (6) 000-6 **EVOCATIVE SPARK** 54 (H) Ollie Sangster 4-9-11 **H Doyle**
2 (5) 01625 **SLY MADAM** 16 (P,D) Miss S West 5-9-8 **W Carver (3)**
3 (2) 55-66 **G'DAAY** 16 Joseph Parr 5-9-6 **D Probert**
4 (7) 23-25 **FRANCESI** 27 (B,BF,D) S P C Woods 4-9-6 **R Havlin**
5 (4) 4-010 **DOUBLE TIME** 42 (T,D) Sir M Todd 5-9-3 **G Rooke**
6 (1) -5400 **POINT OF FACT** 5 (P) P Charalambous & J Clutterbuck 4-9-2 **L Morris**
7 (3) 23-41 **MAHANAKHON** 29 T Easterby 4-9-2 **W Buick**
8 (9) 20-64 **ROACH POWER** 16 T Easterby 4-8-13 **P J McDonald**
9 (10) 34-03 **CABINET OF CLOWNS** 24 E J-Houghton 4-8-13 **Georgia Dobie (3)**
10 (8) 010-0 **YOUARENOTFORGIVEN** 13 (C,D) A Carroll 5-8-10 **C Lee**

5-2 Mahanakhon, 3-1 Sly Madam, 9-2 Francesi, 13-2 Cabinet Of Clowns, Double Time, 10-1 Roach Power, 20-1 Evocative Spark, 25-1 Youarenotforgiven.

4.48 Handicap
(3-Y-O: £10,800: 6f) (10)
1 (8) 0-222 **STRIKING STAR** 9 (BF) C Appleby 9-9 **W Buick**
2 (9) 0-610 **LAKOTA BLUE** 19 (D) N Tinkler 9-8 **F McManoman**
3 (6) 2224- **THE BIG BOARD** 203 (BF,CD) R Hannon 9-6 **A Voikhansky (5)**
4 (1) 110-3 **SAFARI DREAM** 23 B Millman 9-5 **R Coakley**
5 (10) 500-5 **CARMELA** 19 D Loughnane 9-4 **C Lee**
6 (2) 22-12 **BROOKLYN NINE NINE** 30 (P,D) R Fahey 9-3 **J Garritty**
7 (7) 0-221 **CRUISE** 18 (D) Ollie Sangster 9-1 **H Doyle**
8 (3) 5116- **MEHME** 233 (D) R Hannon 9-1 **D O'Neill**
9 (4) 5-411 **GRENHAM BAY** 25 (D) A Balding 8-13 **D Probert**
10 (5) 153 **FOX MASTER** 17 (D) R Varian 8-11 **M Ghiani**

3-1 Striking Star, 9-2 Brooklyn Nine Nine, 11-2 Cruise, 13-2 Grenham Bay, 8-1 Fox Master, Safari Dream, 10-1 The Big Board, 14-1 others.

5.25 Handicap
(3-Y-O: £4,187: 1m 4f) (7)
1 (6) 0030- **MISS CYNTHIA** 214 Sir M Prescott 9-10 **L Morris**
2 (3) 646-4 **DREAMS ADOZEN** 24 Charlie Johnston 9-9 **F Norton**
3 (2) 5-435 **ROADWAY** 54 (P) J & T Gosden 9-8 **R Havlin**
4 (5) 054 **D DAY ARVALENREEVA** 25 K P De Foy 9-7 **D Probert**
5 (1) 04531 **ROCK N ROLL PINKIE** 29 I Furtado 9-6 **M Ghiani**
6 (4) 433 **MAJESTIC JAMEELA** 82 S Edmunds 9-0 **Mollie Phillips (3)**
7 (7) 0-60 **SELENACHORUS** 27 M Bell 8-7 **H Doyle**

2-1 Rock N Roll Pinkie, 4-1 Dreams Adozen, 9-2 Miss Cynthia, 6-1 D Day Arvalenreeva, 8-1 Roadway, 10-1 Selenachorus, Majestic Jameela.

5.55 Handicap (£3,664: 1m 2f) (12)
1 (6) -1333 **DAMASCUS FINISH** 26 B Johnson 4-10-2 **W Carson**
2 (5) 15310 **MOON OVER THE SEA** 44 A Carroll 4-10-1 **C Lee**
3 (3) 0600- **PURE BUBBLES** 228 (P) G L Moore 5-10-0 **W Buick**
4 (7) 45-06 **SPECIAL TIMES** 124 Owen Burrows 4-10-0 **D O'Neill**
5 (1) 24616 **CRAZY SPIN** 30 (T,V) I Furtado 7-9-8 **M Ghiani**
6 (11) 30-00 **THE LION STRIKES** 26 J G O'Shea 4-9-5 **Rhiain Ingram (3)**
7 (9) 00-63 **ANGEL OF PEACE** 25 E Walker 3-9-2 **R Coakley**
8 (12) 60-60 **RHEA OF THE YEAR** 21 R Eddery 3-8-11 **D Keenan**
9 (2) 00-65 **DAME SARRA** 51 (V) E Dunlop 3-8-9 **D Probert**
10 (4) 000-0 **SERAPHIA** 29 (V) M Bell 3-8-5 **L Morris**
11 (8) 000- **GALLIMIMUS** 173 G Boughey 3-8-5 **H Turner**
12 (10) 00-43 **ANGEL DE LUZ** 28 (P) Miss A Murphy 3-8-5 **H Doyle**

7-2 Damascus Finish, 9-2 Angel Of Peace, Crazy Spin, 5-1 Angel De Luz, 8-1 Moon Over The Sea, 12-1 Dame Sarra, Special Times, 14-1 Gallimimus.

Windsor
Rob Wright

1.30 Cuban Breeze
2.00 Say Hello
2.35 Nine Tenths
3.10 Night On Earth
3.45 Melek Alreeh
4.20 Damascus Steel
4.51 Johnjay

Going: good to firm **Sky Sports Racing**
Draw: 5f-6f, low numbers best

1.30 Handicap (£5,653: 6f) (12)
1 (10) 2-300 **FARO DE SAN JUAN** 9 (T,D) Dylan Cunha 4-9-9 **G Cheyne**
2 (5) 0-005 **LEQUINTO** 28 (CD) A Carroll 6-9-8 **N Callan**
3 (11) 05005 **CUBAN BREEZE** 14 (V,CD) P Evans 5-9-6 **Rossa Ryan**
4 (2) 2000- **A SURE WELCOME** 232 (P,CD) Henry Oliver 9-9-5 **L Keniry**
5 (6) 02-61 **SILENT FLAME** 14 (C,D) B Millman 5-9-4 **R Kingscote**
6 (4) 3-540 **BEYOND EQUAL** 26 (D) W Kittow 8-9-3 **R Hornby**
7 (3) 51-15 **HELLO ZABEEL** 88 (P,D) C Fellowes 5-9-1 **H Davies (3)**
8 (12) 450-4 **REGAL ENVOY** 10 (D) W Knight 4-8-12 **D Muscutt**
9 (1) 16-41 **VAPE** 13 (P,CD) J Flint 6-8-11 **W Cox**
10 (7) 35403 **AS IF BY CHANCE** 9 (D) N Tinkler 5-8-9 **T Marquand**
11 (9) 5403- **LORD P** 245 (T,D) F O'Brien 6-8-9 **S Osborne**
12 (8) 100-5 **RAINBOW MIRAGE** 25 (CD) S Lycett 6-8-5 **Elisha Whittington (5)**

7-2 Silent Flame, 11-2 Regal Envoy, 13-2 Vape, As If By Chance, 8-1 Beyond Equal, Hello Zabeel, 10-1 Lord P, Faro De San Juan.

2.00 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £3,672: 6f) (14)
1 (7) **BELVOIR KITTEN** E Dunlop 9-7 **N Callan**
2 (5) **BESTIE** M Meade 9-7 **T Marquand**
3 (2) **CHIEF MANKATO** C Hills 9-7 **B Sayette**
4 (1) **COUNT PALATINE** B Meehan 9-7 **S M Levey**
5 (14) **INQUISITIVELY** Ollie Sangster 9-7 **James Doyle**
6 (3) **RESPONSE FORCE** R Varian 9-7 **Jefferson Smith**
7 (13) **ROBBO** C Hills 9-7 **B Curtis**
8 (9) 2 **ETHANDUN** 24 (BF) E J-Houghton 9-5 **C Bishop**
9 (12) **ROCKSTAR ICON** P & O Cole 9-5 **R Hornby**
10 (4) **SKY WIZARD** C Cox 9-5 **K Stott**
11 (6) **TEN CARD BRAG** J Osborne 9-5 **S Osborne**
12 (8) 3 **DENRUTH DIAMOND** 35 B Millman 9-2 **R Kingscote**
13 (11) **REFLEXION FAITE** K P De Foy 9-2 **D Muscutt**
14 (10) 3 **SAY HELLO** 13 R Beckett 9-2 **Rossa Ryan**

3-1 Ethandun, 10-3 Say Hello, 11-2 Denruth Diamond, 6-1 Response Force, 14-1 Chief Mankato, Bestie, 16-1 Inquisitively, Sky Wizard, Count Palatine.

2.35 Novice Stakes (£4,320: 6f) (8)
1 (7) 3 **EXTINCTION** 18 J Ferguson 6-9-7 **D Muscutt**
2 (4) 34/5 **LOVE WHISPER** 65 J Tickle 4-9-2 **S M Levey**
3 (1) 41- **NINE TENTHS** 195 (D) W Haggas 3-9-0 **T Marquand**
4 (6) 01- **PASTICHE** 232 G Boughey 3-9-0 **B Curtis**
5 (3) **CROW'S NEST** G Boughey 3-8-12 **N Callan**
6 (2) 234-3 **FIERCE** 11 G L Moore 3-8-12 **Jason Watson**
7 (8) **MOONLIGHT DREAMER** R Cowell 3-8-12 **S Osborne**
8 (5) 0 **MOULIN BOOJ** 18 G Scott 3-8-12 **B Sayette**

9-4 Nine Tenths, 5-2 Pastiche, 11-4 Fierce, 15-2 Extinction, 10-1 Crow's Nest, 16-1 Moonlight Dreamer, 50-1 Love Whisper, Moulin Booj.

3.10 Handicap (£9,936: 5f) (4)
1 (2) -4020 **KING OF BAVARIA** 48 (T,D) M Appleby 4-9-10 **Rossa Ryan**
2 (3) 43-40 **WHENTHEDEALINSDONE** 11 (P,CD) R Teal 5-9-7 **T Marquand**
3 (1) 0-501 **NAVELLO** 9 (T,D) G Boughey 4-9-2 **B Curtis**
4 (4) 66-04 **NIGHT ON EARTH** 18 (P,CD) I Williams 5-8-13 **R Kingscote**

7-4 Navello, 5-2 Whenthedealinsdone, 3-1 King Of Bavaria, 9-2 Night On Earth.

3.45 Handicap (£9,936: 1m 2f) (7)
1 (5) 6236- **PARADIAS** 234 A King 4-9-9 **Rossa Ryan**
2 (2) 0-025 **SPINAROUND** 24 K P De Foy 4-9-8 **D Muscutt**
3 (4) 016-3 **ANDALEEP** 10 (T,CD) D & C Kubler 7-9-5 **R Kingscote**
4 (1) 441 **PEACE MAN** 21 (CD) J & T Gosden 4-9-5 **B Sayette**
5 (3) 006-0 **ACE ROTHSTEIN** 23 (D) Dylan Cunha 5-9-2 **G Cheyne**
6 (6) 3006- **SILVER GUNN** 226 (CD) M Botti 5-9-1 **N Callan**
7 (7) 15-45 **MELEK ALREEH** 88 (T) D M Simcock 4-8-13 **T Marquand**

2-1 Peace Man, 3-1 Andaleep, 4-1 Spinaround, 5-1 Paradias, 10-1 Melek Alreeh, 14-1 Silver Gunn, 20-1 Ace Rothstein.

4.20 Handicap (3-Y-O: £4,397: 1m 3f) (5)
1 (1) 00-11 **DOG FOX** 3 (H) E Dunlop 9-11(6ex) **Doubtful**
2 (5) 050 **COSMIC VIEW** 10 S & E Crisford 9-9 **James Doyle**
3 (3) 321-6 **LADY OF ARABIA** 14 E J-Houghton 9-9 **C Bishop**
4 (2) 030- **CIARA STORM** 177 (B) M Meade 9-7 **S M Levey**
5 (4) 0-222 **DAMASCUS STEEL** 12 (B) E Dunlop 9-1 **Rossa Ryan**

15-8 Damascus Steel, 2-1 Cosmic View, 3-1 Ciara Storm, 5-1 Lady Of Arabia.

4.51 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,768: 1m) (13)
1 (11) 34-41 **SENESI** 7 (D) K P De Foy 9-13(6ex) **D Muscutt**
2 (5) 10-46 **ENOLA GREY** 27 (D) J Portman 9-11 **R Hornby**
3 (4) 1-536 **TOMAHAWK KING** 30 Jack Channon 9-11 **Rose Dawes (5)**
4 (2) 64-3 **ADWAN** 147 R Hannon 9-10 **P Dobbs**
5 (8) 5-633 **VALKYRIAN** 14 J Osborne 9-10 **S Osborne**
6 (10) 10-05 **KING OF ITHACA** 26 (P) M Botti 9-8 **Morgan Cole (7)**
7 (13) 5-360 **DESFONDADO** 20 S Dow 9-7 **P Bradley (3)**
8 (6) 002-3 **ORIENTAL DANCER** 10 R Hannon 9-7 **S M Levey**
9 (1) 60-13 **JOHNJAY** 23 (BF,D) R Teal 9-5 **J F Egan**
10 (9) 2-130 **GWENDOLINA** 19 C Cox 9-4 **J Fahy**
11 (7) 056-2 **MR BOSON** 5 H Morrison 9-2 **R Kingscote**
12 (3) 630-0 **CHARMING LILY** 40 T Ward 9-1 **T Marquand**
13 (12) -4422 **COLOANE** 65 W Jarvis 9-0 **N Callan**

5-2 Senesi, 6-1 Coloane, 13-2 Mr Boson, 8-1 Adwan, 10-1 Oriental Dancer, 12-1 King Of Ithaca, Tomahawk King, Johnjay.

Course specialists: Cartmel: Trainers B Haslam, 10 winners from 42 runners, 23.8%; L Morgan, 4 from 17, 23.5%. **Jockeys** Charlotte Jones, 23 winners from 76 rides, 30.3%; K Brogan, 4 from 14, 28.6%. **Huntingdon: Trainers** T Lacey, 10 from 36, 27.8%; P Kirby, 4 from 15, 26.7%. **Jockeys** J Hogan, 3 from 10, 30%; J O'Neill Jr, 15 from 59, 25.4%. **Leicester: Trainers** C Appleby, 9 from 28, 32.1%; E Walker, 7 from 22, 31.8%. **Jockeys** Faye McManoman, 3 from 11, 27.3%; W Buick, 25 from 92, 27.2%. **Redcar: Trainers** H Eustace, 3 from 8, 37.5%; S & E Crisford, 7 from 20, 35%. **Jockeys** D Tudhope, 24 from 116, 20.7%; Mark Winn, 3 from 15, 20%. **Windsor: Trainers** W Haggas, 24 from 77, 31.2%; J & T Gosden, 9 from 30, 30%. **Jockeys** B De La Sayette, 8 from 26, 30.8%; James Doyle, 25 from 91, 27.5%.

Yesterday's racing results

Fontwell Park
Going: good (good to firm in places)

1.40 (2m 5f 164yd hdle) 1, **Not Long Left** (Jack Tudor, 5-6 fav); 2, Glorious Mist (28-1). 3 ran. 3¾l, Christian Williams.

2.10 (2m 1f 162yd hdle) 1, **Fanfaron Dino** (R P McLernon, 9-2); 2, Tara Iti (7-4 fav); 3, Vin Rouge (11-1). 8 ran. Nk, 13l. A J Honeyball.

2.40 (2m 5f 135yd ch) 1, **Jigginstown King** (Cillin Leonard, 8-11 fav); 2, Striking A Pose (11-4); 3, Koi Dodville (7-2). NR: Not Another Muddle. 3l, 10l. O Signy.

3.10 (2m 3f 49yd hdle) 1, **Hunters Call** (Miss Alice Stevens, 4-1); 2, Estacas (2-1 fav); 3, Hooper (5-2). 5 ran. NR: Casa Loupi, Lock's Corner. 1¼l, hd. O Murphy.

3.45 (3m 1f 166yd hdle) 1, **Astroman** (H Cobden, 9-4 fav); 2, West Orchard (100-30); 3, Monty's Award (9-2). 5 ran. NR: Barrowmount, Pour Une Raison. 4½l, 9l. Syd Hosie.

4.15 (3m 1f 210yd ch) 1, **Toad Of Toad Hall** (Phillip Armson, 5-1); 2, An Marcach (17-2). 5 ran. NR: Abington Park, Call Of The Loon, Uallrightharry. 47l, Alexandra Dunn.

4.50 (2m 5f 164yd hdle) 1, **Happy Company** (Ned Fox, 11-2); 2, Happy Index (13-8); 3, Balgowan (8-1). 5 ran. NR: Coconut Twist, Prince Cleni. 1¼l, 16l. J G M O'Shea.

Placepot: £103.90. Quadpot: £33.90.

Kelso
Going: good to firm

2.30 (2m 51yd hdle) 1, **Clody Flyer** (B S Hughes, 1-6 fav); 2, Melvich Bay (4-1); 3, Butterfly Island (28-1). 5 ran. 4½l, 12l. D McCain Jnr.

3.00 (2m 5f 133yd ch) 1, **The Ferry Master** (Ryan Mania, 9-2); 2, Hidden Commander (4-1); 3, Dolly Dancer (11-4). 4 ran. ½l, 5l. A M Thomson.

3.35 (2m 51yd hdle) 1, **Castel Gandolfo** (Jack Hogan, 3-1); 2, Matchless (7-4 fav); 3, Russian Virtue (15-2). 5 ran. 1½l, ¾l. F O'Brien.

4.05 (3m 1f 170yd hdle) 1, **Rae Des Champs** (Dylan Johnston, 5-4 fav); 2, Sputnik (9-2); 3, Maura Jeanne (11-2). 7 ran. 3¼l, ¾l. R Dobbin.

4.40 (2m 7f 96yd ch) 1, **Rockonsoph** (Sean Quinlan, Evens fav); 2, Divas Doyen (2-1). 3 ran. 13l, R Dobbin.

5.15 (3m 2f 39yd ch) 1, **Slievegar** (Mr Toby McCain-Mitchell, 4-5 fav); 2, Shanroe Street (13-2). 4 ran. NR: Steely Addition. 11l, P Rowley.

5.45 (2m 51yd Flat) 1, **Hard As Nails** (Jack Hogan, 2-5 fav); 2, Snow Shepherdess (9-4); 3, Mrs Fox (22-1). NR: Queen Of Hindsight. 2¼l, 39l. F O'Brien.

Placepot: £63.10. Quadpot: £8.00.

Uttoxeter
Going: good

2.20 (3m ch) 1, **Universal Folly** (Danny McMenamin, 4-6 fav); 2, Martello Sky (6-5); 2½l, N G Richards.

2.50 (2m 3f 207yd hdle) 1, **Ooh Betty** (Ben Jones, 11-10 fav); 2, Manimole (11-4); 3, Our Friend Mo (17-2). 13 ran. 1½l, 23l. Ben Clarke.

3.25 (3m ch) 1, **Brianna Rose** (Adam Wedge, 5-6 fav); 2, Judge Earle (Evens). NR: Ballaquane. 47l, M Keighley.

3.55 (2m 4f ch) 1, **Gloire D'Athon** (Aidan Coleman, 5-1 jt-fav); 2, Quid Pro Quo (6-1); 3, Killer Clown (22-1). 12 ran. 1½l, ½l. Mrs S J Humphrey.

4.30 (2m 3f 207yd hdle) 1, **Park Hill Dancer** (N de Boinville, 15-8 fav); 2, Midnight Ginger (3-1); 3, Fat Sam (11-2). 6 ran. 4l, 2l. N J Henderson.

5.05 (2m 7f 70yd hdle) 1, **Baby Jane** (Danny McMenamin, 17-2); 2, Tzunami (10-1); 3, He Is A Cracker (5-2 fav). 10 ran. 7½l, 1½l. G Boanas.

5.35 (1m 7f 168yd hdle) 1, **Galata Bridge** (Sam Twiston-Davies, 7-4); 2, Cabrakan (9-1); 3, Sarsons Risk (11-8 fav). 5 ran. 1¼l, 14l. Dr R D P Newland.

Placepot: £43.60. Quadpot: £25.20.

Warne's 'Ball of the Century'

Mike Atherton reflects on 30th anniversary of leg spinner's stunning first act in Ashes



'Twas the first Test of The Ashes series 1993
Australia had only managed 289 and we
Felt all was going to plan, that first innings at Old Trafford
Then Merv Hughes and his handlebar moustache dismissed poor Athers
I took the crease to great applause and focused on me dinner
I knew that I had little cause to fear their young leg spinner
He loosened up his shoulders and with no run up at all
He rolled his right arm over and he let go of the ball . . ."

Thirty years on (this coming Friday is the anniversary), Shane Warne's "Ball of the Century" to Mike Gatting has not been forgotten: The Duckworth-Lewis Method wrote a song about it, excerpt above, called *Jiggery Pokery*; the clip of the ball has been viewed millions of times on various platforms; it is still referenced whenever a spin bowler produces a bit of magic; and is remembered more mournfully now, of course, 15 months on from Warne's death.

Others who were tangentially involved have also died. Richie Benaud, himself a world-class leg spinner, who once bamboozled England at Old Trafford, called the moment with his customary economy and style. You can just picture Benaud in the mind's eye raising a quizzical eyebrow as he says: "He's done it." There was no screaming or shouting, just a pause to let the moment sink in and then: "He's started off with the most beautiful delivery. Gatting has absolutely no idea what has happened to it . . . he still doesn't know."

So has Terry Jenner, Warne's coach, who had been speaking at a function at the Melbourne Cricket Ground the moment his pupil entered Ashes folklore. Jenner's reaction, according to Gideon Haigh who recounted the anecdote in this year's Wisden Almanack, was unprintable because the day before the two had connected over the phone and they had agreed that Warne should ease his way into the Ashes. Go carefully, you know, and settle in before looking to do something a little more ambitious.

The man who coined the phrase "Ball of the Century" was the former cricket correspondent of *The Sunday Times*, Robin Marlar, whose memorial service was held at Lord's six weeks ago. Marlar had a day's grace to file his report, but he felt the need to reflect on the moment, and his description has stood the test of time. Marlar was a spinner himself (he had taken 970 wickets bowling off spin for Sussex and Cambridge), and knew he had seen something special that needed recording for posterity in The Sunday Times archive, which is where it now sits.

"The Ball of the Century we can safely call it, was the very first from Shane Warne in a Test in England . . . Up he skipped, ripped his fingers across the seam and released The Ball. Those of us lucky enough to be behind the arm thought it was the flipper because, as it arced it began to swing towards the leg side, fading further as it hovered and fell. It dropped on the edge of the quick bowlers' second footfall, at least a foot outside Gatting's advancing left leg. Now, we thought, watch it go on down the leg side. If Gatting is quick he might swat it with a sweep. But this was no flipper, rather an inspired leg spinner, which, having dropped, bit and bounced steeply. It travelled past the outside of Gatting's bat, past his back leg and just tickled the outside of the off stump. Utter perfection, sporting skill elevated to fine art." Quite.

The most recounted anecdote from before that Old Trafford Test comes from Worcester, where, in the second innings following-on, Graeme Hick put a dent in the young spinner's confidence (23-6-122-1) when he smashed 187 in the tourists' traditional opening first-class fixture at England's most picturesque county ground. It is well known that Allan Border, Australia's captain, had instructed Warne not to show all his tricks against Hick and had kept Warne out of view in the ODI series that followed.

But Warne had made his mark on others who played against him in the run-up to the first Test which, as was habit then, was extensive. He played in four of the first-class warm-up matches against Worcestershire, Somerset, Surrey and Leicestershire, as well as one-day games against an England Amateur XI at Radlett, and the Duchess of Norfolk's XI at Arundel. Before the World Test Championship final this year, Australia will practise behind closed doors at Beckenham and will have no county matches before or during the Ashes — how times change.

That was one of the glories of touring then, and an Ashes tour was a favourite of the Australia players because of the camaraderie that ensued, travelling around the country on the team bus, enjoying the variety that a four-month tour would offer.

As Hughes told the young leg spinner on the flight over: "It's a great tour: no flights; free beer from the sponsors; the county games are no sweat and the Tests have rest days. Best of all, England are crap."

Hard to think now, but the greatest leg spinner that the game has seen, played his first match for Australia in England at Radlett, a club ground in Hertfordshire. There is still a framed memento of the day in the club's pavilion. Steve Dean, the father of Charlie Dean, the England women's cricketer, opened the batting for the England Amateur XI that day but was out just before Warne came on to bowl.



Instead, it was left to Mel Hussain, brother of Nasser, to hit Warne for the first six of the tour, a towering shot in the first over after tea that took some tiles off the roof of the Radlett pavilion. Hussain remembers facing one over from Warne before tea — which he didn't lay a bat on — and then the six. Hussain recalls that Micky Stewart was the manager of the Amateur XI and that he, Hussain, was tasked with seeing how Warne reacted under pressure. Clearly, the swashbuckling genes in the Hussain family were distributed unevenly.

Then to Worcester, and a pounding from Hick, and then to Taunton for a second first-class game against Somerset, which Australia won by 35 runs. Nick Folland, who came late to a short spell in professional cricket because of a teaching career, played in that match for Somerset and was dismissed twice by Warne. Now living in Perth, Australia, he tells me he remembers a spinner who "bowled it quickly, spun it hard and was very hard work to face". In the second innings, chasing 320, Folland (32) and Andy Hayhurst (89) were going quite well and Folland remembers hitting Warne over long on and sweeping him for boundaries.

"He was bowling around the wicket and I remember Andy's wicket clearly because as he released it, Warne shouted, 'That's done him!' and, sure enough, Andy was bowled around his legs.

"But I queried it with the umpire, questioning whether a bowler should be shouting while the ball was in mid-air. Andy had turned to walk back to the pavilion but I told him to wait. Anyway, the umpires conferred and gave him out, after which I got a fair bit of stick from Warne. Then he got me stumped brilliantly by Tim Zoehrer to one that spun a long way.

"They were great to play against. I remember them being very aggressive in the field, but after the game they all came in the changing room for a drink."

It was only Mark Butcher's third first-class game when he came up against Warne, in the spinner's next first-class game, on May 25, 1993, so it



Warne celebrates his first Test wicket in England, a wondrous leg spinner that deceived Gatting, who could scarcely believe

A class apart

Most wickets in Ashes history

S Warne (Aus)	195
G McGrath (Aus)	157
H Trumble (Aus)	141
S Broad (Eng)	131
I Botham (Eng)	128
D Lillee (Aus)	128
B Willis (Eng)	123
M Noble (Aus)	115
R Lindwall (Aus)	114
J Anderson (Eng)	112

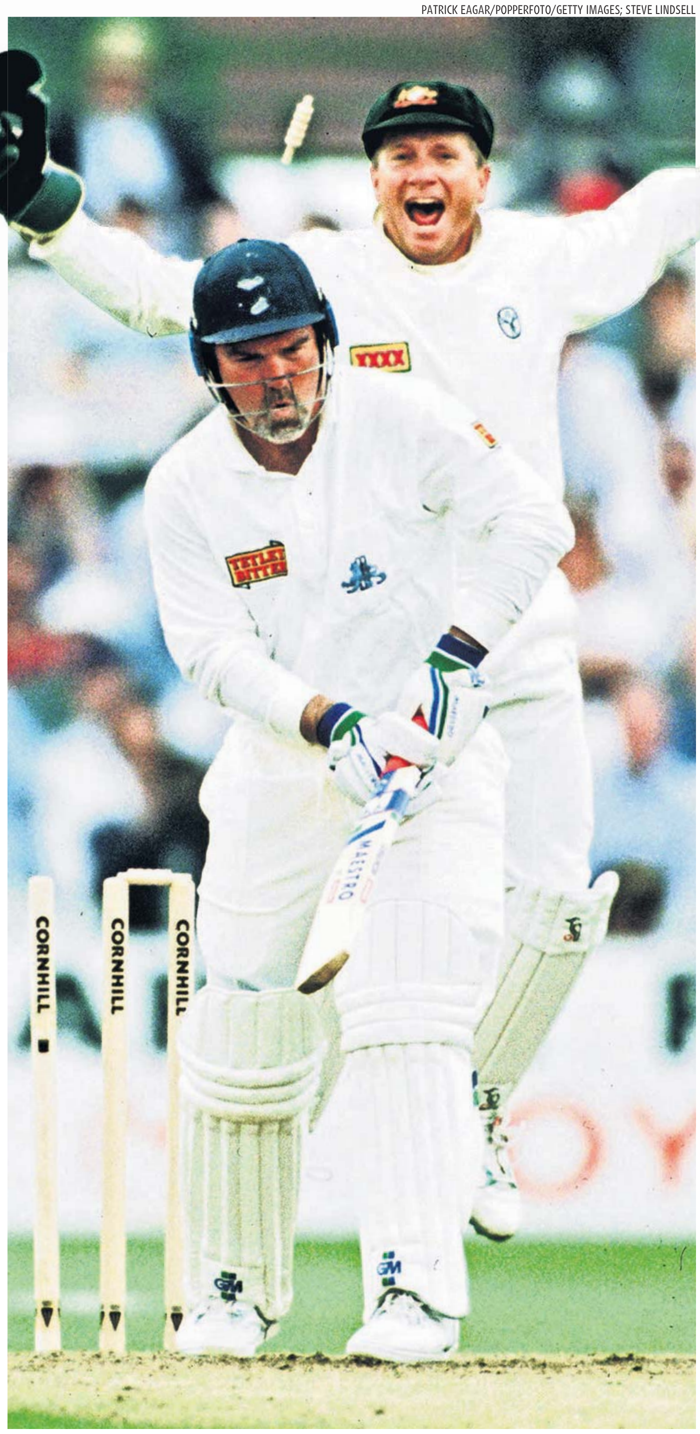

Test turned inside out by ball of the century

Marlar coined the phrase 'ball of the century'. Left, Warne with Atherton

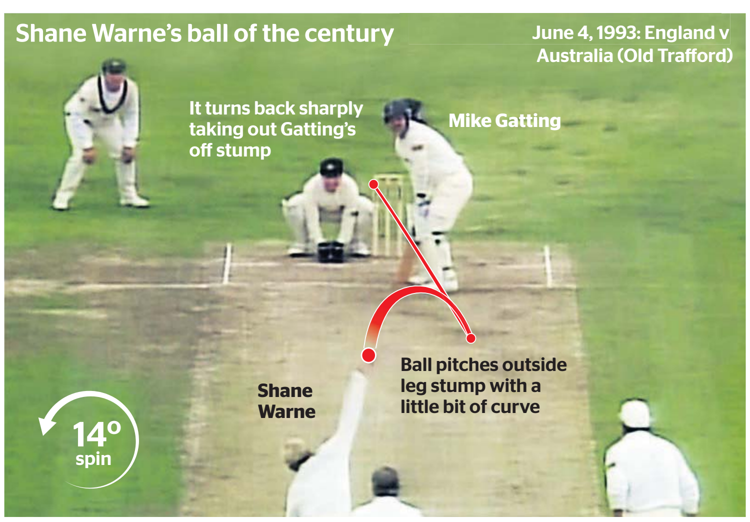
still sends shiver down spine

PATRICK EAGAR/POPPERFOTO/GETTY IMAGES; STEVE LINDSELL





he was out bowled, right, on the second day of the first Test at Old Trafford. Warne would go on to take 195 Ashes wickets



is perhaps no surprise that he remembers the match clearly. "It was a low-key game, on a green, damp pitch and very cold," says Butcher, who, like Folland, was dismissed in both innings by Warne, leg-before and stumped.

He recalls the second dismissal, stumped, vividly. "The ball nearly pitched off the strip and then spun over my right shoulder as I lunged at it, brilliantly taken by Zoehrer [Zoehrer, also a leg spinner, was Ian Healy's understudy] behind the stumps. I guess he was strong then, was Warne, as this was before any injuries and I remember hearing the ball on its way down, humming. Fizzing, almost.

"After I got out I remember thinking 'What the hell was that?' It spun more than anything I'd seen before. So that was all before the Gatting ball, but he made a very strong impression on me. I probably didn't face him again until the 1997 Ashes."

So although Warne had only taken one wicket against Worcestershire, his form had been strong in the remaining first-class matches before the Old Trafford Test: five wickets against Somerset, seven against Surrey, and six against Leicestershire. Old Trafford was to be his 12th Test. He had taken 31 Test wickets at an average of 30 by this stage, but had shown glimpses of what was to come, with seven for 52 against West Indies at Melbourne, and 17 wickets in the preceding series against New Zealand. He was improving rapidly.

Alan Lee, the then cricket correspondent of The Times, wrote after the Somerset match: "Shane Warne, the 23-year-old who has already won three Tests, commands respect and he can now add Somerset to the list of teams bemused, bothered and bewildered by his varieties."

Reflecting on Warne's 100th first-class wicket against Leicestershire in the final match before the first Test, Michael Henderson, Lee's No 2, wrote in The Times: "It will be a lengthy list by the end of the summer." So it was.

The weather was atrocious in the build-up to the Manchester Test, my 24th for England. It was so wet that there was talk in the media that Australia might play only one spinner, and on a sticky pitch that spinner might be Tim May, not Warne. England played two finger spinners, Peter Such and Phil Tufnell.

There was no discussion of Warne before the match among the team. Nothing now is hidden from view in professional cricket but this was way before extensive analysis was a thing, a surprise factor that must have benefited Warne that match. I cannot remember seeing any video footage before the game and the expectation that May might play dampened any speculation about Warne. At the traditional pre-Test dinner — long since abandoned now — there was no chat about him.

The pitch was very damp at the start, the reason why Graham Gooch put Australia into bat, although as a generation of captains discovered, this was a perilous business with Warne in the opposition. Warne then got to work on the second day, in the afternoon session, just before tea. The clock showed 3.05pm — five minutes past midnight in Warne's home town, Melbourne.

Looking at the YouTube footage now, you can see sawdust everywhere: a small pile behind the bowlers' run-ups and spread around on the run-up footmarks, and Warne, before his first ball, jogs over towards a pile to retrieve the fast bowlers' mark (in those days they were like small, round beermats whereas now the bowlers' marks are painted on the outfield). Warne stood at the end of his run-up: peroxide blond hair, gold chain, a blob of sun cream on the end of his nose.

He bowled a practice ball to mid-on, paused a while to get the field right, and then, as Benaud intoned "first ball in Test cricket in England for Shane Warne", he walked, then broke into a trot and released the ball from a low arm — maybe at 2 o'clock — which, along with the strength of his fingers and wrist, sent it humming towards Gatting, dipping and then swerving and then spinning beyond the batsman's half-forward push. Given the angles — to spin it past Gatting from outside leg stump and still hit the top of off stump — it was the perfect ball, the image made more so by Gatting turning to watch it hit his stumps, and then standing there, momentarily, in bemusement, his mouth making an astonished "O". In the dressing room, we gathered around the television to watch the replay.

With this entrance Warne had entered Ashes folklore, although he was to take another 194 wickets in Ashes contests, more than anyone else by a distance. His legacy was assured, and it lives on through these memories, but more so because of the verve and zest with which he approached the game — and life — more generally. During the first Ashes series since his passing, he will be sorely missed.

Full scoreboard

AUSTRALIA First Innings	R
M A Taylor c and b Such	124
M J Slater c Stewart b DeFreitas	58
D C Boon c Lewis b Such	21
M E Waugh c and b Tufnell	6
*A R Border st Stewart b Such	17
S R Waugh b Such	3
†I A Healy c Such b Tufnell	12
B P Julian c Gatting b Such	0
M G Hughes c DeFreitas b Such	2
S K Warne not out	15
C J Dermott run out	8
Extras (b 8, lb 8, nb 7)	23
TOTAL (112.3 overs)	289

Fall of wickets 1-128, 2-183, 3-221, 4-225, 5-232, 6-260, 7-264, 8-266, 9-267.
Bowling Caddick 15-4-38-0; DeFreitas 23-8-46-1; Lewis 13-2-44-0; Such 33.3-9-67-6; Tufnell 28-5-78-2.

ENGLAND First Innings	R
*G A Gooch c Julian b Warne	65
M A Atherton c Healy b Hughes	19
M W Gatting b Warne	4
R A Smith c Taylor b Warne	4
G A Hick c Border b Hughes	34
†A J Stewart b Julian	27
C C Lewis c Boon b Hughes	9
P A J DeFreitas lbw b Julian	5
A R Caddick c Healy b Warne	7
P M Such not out	14
P C R Tufnell c Healy b Hughes	1
Extras (b 6, lb 10, nb 5)	21
TOTAL (74.5 overs)	210

Fall of wickets 1-71, 2-80, 3-84, 4-123, 5-148, 6-168, 7-178, 8-183, 9-203.
Bowling McDermott 18-2-50-0; Hughes 20.5-5-59-4; Julian 11-2-30-2; Warne 24-10-51-4; Border 1-0-4-0.

AUSTRALIA Second Innings	R
M A Taylor lbw b Such	9
M J Slater c Caddick b Such	27
D C Boon c Gatting b DeFreitas	93
M E Waugh b Tufnell	64
*A R Border c and b Caddick	31
S R Waugh not out	78
†I A Healy not out	102
Extras (b 6, lb 14, w 8)	28
TOTAL (5 wkts dec, 130 overs)	432

Fall of wickets 1-23, 2-46, 3-155, 4-234, 5-252.
Bowling Caddick 20-3-79-1; DeFreitas 24-1-80-1; Lewis 9-0-43-0; Such 31-6-78-2; Tufnell 37-4-112-1; Hick 9-1-20-0.

ENGLAND Second Innings	R
*G A Gooch handled the ball	133
M A Atherton c Taylor b Warne	25
M W Gatting b Hughes	23
R A Smith b Warne	18
G A Hick c Healy b Hughes	22
†A J Stewart c Healy b Warne	11
C C Lewis c Taylor b Warne	43
P A J DeFreitas lbw b Julian	7
A R Caddick c Warne b Hughes	25
P M Such c Border b Hughes	9
P C R Tufnell not out	0
Extras (lb 11, nb 4, w 1)	16
TOTAL (120.2 overs)	332

Fall of wickets 1-73, 2-133, 3-171, 4-223, 5-230, 6-238, 7-260, 8-299, 9-331.
Bowling McDermott 30-9-76-0; Hughes 27.2-4-92-4; Julian 14-1-67-1; Warne 49-26-86-4.

Umpires H D Bird (England) and K E Palmer (England).
Match referee Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi (India).
Man of the match S K Warne (Australia).

‘Nobody wanted Saracens to win but we don’t care’

Alex Lowe
Chief Rugby Correspondent



Saracens	**35**
Sale Sharks	**25**

Owen Farrell capped a majestic performance by hoofing the ball into Twickenham’s sun-drenched East Stand to confirm Saracens as champions of England once again. As the club captain raised his arms and pointed to the sky in celebration, Ben Earl dropped to his knees and wept. Over on the opposite touchline, standing in the shade, Jackson Wray took a moment’s pause to recognise the full extent of what Saracens had just achieved; the team’s redemption arc and, for himself, a fairytale finish.

Wray, the retiring No 8, had just played his 309th and final game; a one-club man never absent on England duty who has lived the titles, the trials and the tribulations at Saracens every day for 14 years. When that final whistle sounded, Wray’s mind flicked back to January 2020 and the meeting where the players were informed by club executives that they were to be relegated as punishment for salary cap offences.

“We sat down as players and said, ‘We are going to get back to the top of the game. We don’t know when, but we will get there.’ That hit me straight away as soon as the whistle went,” Wray said. “I thought about what a journey it had been to get here and it feels pretty sweet. We have worked so hard for this. No one has given us anything.”

That’s not entirely true: Saracens have been given plenty of stick over the past few years and the majority of neutral support at Twickenham on Saturday was for Sale. The scandal, for which they were also fined £5.36 million, sullied Saracens’ reputation.

The fallout could have broken the club, but Saracens have used that adversity to drive them upwards, winning promotion from the Championship in 2021, reaching the Premiership final last year, and now winning the title. There will be no asterisk against this achievement. Respect is due.

“I don’t think people talk about this enough: it was the biggest fine in sporting history in a game where you lose money every year,” Wray said. “Let’s just put that in perspective for a moment. And we have got through it. That says a lot about the owners.

“They said, ‘We made a mistake and we will stay and put it right.’ Together we have done it. We have done our bit as players; stayed and fought and gone against everyone.

“Even today. Everyone was with Sale.



Keeping the band together

Saracens team that beat Worcester Warriors 62-5 on January 4, 2020 — the final game before their relegation was confirmed

E Daly, *R Segun*, **A Lozowski**, ~~B Barritt~~, *A Lewington*, **O Farrell**, ~~R Wigglesworth~~, *Mako Vunipola*, **J George**, ~~T Lamositele~~, **M Itoje**, ~~W Skelton~~, **N Isiekwe**, **B Earl**, *B Vunipola*
Replacements: ~~J Singleton~~, ~~R Barrington~~, ~~V Koch~~, ~~J Kpoku~~, ~~B Spencer~~, **J Wray**, *Manu Vunipola*, **D Taylor**

● **Still at club and played in Saturday’s final**
● *Still at club but missed final*
● ~~Has departed club~~

Every club in the land was with Sale. Do you know what? That is how we like it. That is how we have always liked it. No one wants us to win and we don’t care.

“We want to do well for each other and well for the club because this club has given us everything. It has given me everything and the least I can do is pull on this shirt with pride every week.”

Saracens had to lean heavily on their resolve in the final as they dealt first with an injury crisis and then with Sale, who had been swaying at the end of the first half, but came back strongly to open a 25-23 lead, with Tom Curry ubiquitous, Manu Tuilagi thunderous and Jono Ross relentless.

Saracens, already missing Billy Vunipola, Theo McFarland and Andy Christie, lost Mako Vunipola before kick-off. Jamie George took a heavy blow to the head after only ten minutes and Sean Maitland hobbled out of the game as Just Stop Oil protesters were being frogmarched from the arena.

But up stepped heroes. Farrell was supreme; his distribution, spiral bombs, exquisite kicking and ferocious defence marking this as one of his great days.

In a game billed as a showdown for the England No 10 jersey between Farrell and George Ford, it was a statement display in front of Steve Borthwick, the national coach.

“Owen is an unbelievable player, an unbelievable leader,” Wray said. “He understands the game better than any of us. There is never any doubt in my mind he is England’s No 10. You see it today, he was melting people, putting kicks in, controlling the game, adding tempo and that is what you need.”

Nick Isiekwe was imperious in the lineout, Alex Goode full of class and style and Max Malins, who joins Bristol Bears this summer, delivered a memorable farewell performance of his own.

Slowly, Saracens took control of the first half, despite struggling in the scrum, and they led 20-13 at the interval courtesy of a penalty try (for which Malins and Goode take the credit) and a lovely finish from Malins, either side of Akker van der Merwe burrowing over for Sale.

Tom Roebuck pushed the Sharks ahead and the game was on a knife edge after 60 minutes, when Rob du Preez skipped a 50:22 into touch over Goode’s head. Saracens repelled a thrust from Tuilagi and a dart from Ford, but Maro Itoje had pulled down the maul.

Ford kicked the penalty to touch. Itoje read Sale’s plan and intervened to steal the lineout throw. Six minutes later, after another lineout steal from Isiekwe and a charge down from Duncan Taylor, Elliot Daly scored and Saracens had the lead. A minimum ten-point swing.

“That was going to prove to be a big moment in the game,” Itoje said of the lineout steal. “It was one of those games that I think you have to win it a couple of times.”

From there, Saracens opened a ten-point advantage with a try from Ivan van Zyl (that Sale will argue never touched the turf) and held out with a defiant defensive stand.

“There were some special moments as we dominated field position for the last ten minutes,” Wray said, referring, in particular, to Theo Dan, the replacement hooker, executing a critical 50:22 kick. “That kick is probably why I am retiring. What is going on in this game? He is incredibly talented, physical, powerful and, for me, he will be heading to the World Cup.”

Wray has been wrestling for a while with the question of how he will cope with loosening the fraternal ties once he steps away from Saracens and begins his second life working for a finance company. Now he has the answer.

“This is the closure I needed: to be playing, to give everything to get us back to the top of the game and to finish my career with this medal around my neck,” he said. “It just makes sense.”

Mind you, real life will have to wait a day or two. Saracens were off on a fancy dress team social that started in London yesterday. Finish time tbc, although Goode confirmed he would not be repeating his full kit and bumbag three-day bender from 2019.

“I will try and savour this one and not go too crazy too early,” Wray said. “To finish on top is really satisfying, as hard as it is to say goodbye.”

Scorers: Saracens: Tries Penalty try (23min), Malins (34), Daly (66), Van Zyl (70). **Cons** Farrell 2. **Pens** Farrell 3. **Sale: Tries** Van der Merwe (30), Roebuck (44), Rodd (52). **Cons** Ford 2. **Pens** Ford (6, 17).
Saracens A Goode; M Malins, A Lozowski (D Taylor 62), N Tompkins, S Maitland (E Daly 20); O Farrell (capt), I van Zyl (A Davies 73); E Mawi (R Hislop 5, sinbin 73-80), J George (T Dan 10), M Riccioni (C Judge 72), M Itoje, H Tizard (C Hunter-Hill 61), N Isiekwe, B Earl, J Wray (E Mawi 75).
Sale J Carpenter; T Roebuck (T O’Flaherty 50), R du Preez, M Tuilagi (S James 67), A Reed; G Ford, G Warr (R Quirke 50); S McIntyre (B Rodd 45), A van der Merwe (E Ashman 45), N Schonert (C Oosthuizen 45), J du Preez (Ellis 72), J Hill, T Curry (sin-bin 20-30), S Dugdale (Beaumont 72), J Ross (capt).
Referee L Pearce. **Attendance** 61,875





Malins guides Saracens to the title as he goes over for a try and Wray, inset left,

GARRY BOWDEN/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK



Joy for Jones but Folau boos

Israel Folau scored a try but was booed by the Twickenham crowd as the World XV lost 48-42 against Eddie Jones’s Barbarians.

The RFU flew a Pride flag as Folau, who was sacked by Australia in 2019 for homophobic views, scored one of 14 tries.

The former England head coach Jones drew a warm response but the biggest cheers were for Alun Wyn Jones, third from left, who missed two late conversions a week after announcing his Test retirement.

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER MARC ASPLAND



bows out in style as he holds aloft the Premiership trophy while, top, Just Stop Oil protesters invade the pitch in the first half

Another title for a Lancaster deputy

United Rugby Championship
Kit Shepard

Did England underestimate how good they had it under Stuart Lancaster?

By guiding Munster to the United Rugby Championship title with a bruising 19-14 win in the final against Stormers in Cape Town, Graham Rowntree, the Munster head coach, joined the growing list of Lancaster deputies that have tasted glory since leaving the England set-up after the 2015 World Cup.

Rowntree, England's forwards coach under Lancaster, has done a brilliant job since he joined Munster in 2019. He joined as forwards coach before taking the step up at the start of this season. On Saturday the province, who had struggled early in the season, found form at the perfect time to capture their first trophy since 2011.

Munster came through a gruelling play-off gauntlet. They ended Glasgow Warriors' seven-game winning streak in their quarter-final, toppled Leinster 16-15 at the Aviva Stadium through a 78th-minute Jack Crowley drop-goal, and then stunned Stormers courtesy of John Hodnett's late try.

Rowntree is not alone. Andy Farrell, formerly Lancaster's defence coach, has injected a dynamism at Ireland that made them the 2023 Six Nations champions. Among his deputies is Mike Catt, who was England's attack coach under Lancaster. The former England player has made Ireland's backs devastating. Lancaster, meanwhile, has won plenty of silverware with Leinster.

So did the RFU miss a trick? After all, a big criticism of Lancaster's tenure was the failure to capture a grand slam: England won four out of five games in all four Six Nations campaigns under him. Now, after three consecutive campaigns of winning just two matches, England supporters must be yearning for such consistency.

Equally, a selective memory may cloud this judgment. When Eddie Jones's England won a slam at the first attempt, 2016, or when they dismantled New Zealand at the 2019 World Cup, nobody was longing for the past. Even before these successes, England's 2015 World Cup group-stage exit (on home soil) was so humiliating that revamping the entire coaching team seemed necessary.

Lancaster's England struggled to win one-off matches when the stakes were high, be it Six Nations clashes away from Twickenham or the World Cup defeats by Wales and Australia. Leinster's back-to-back failures in the Champions Cup final suggest that sides he has a strong influence on are flawed tactically.

That big-game vulnerability does not exist elsewhere. Ireland have become formidable under Farrell and Catt, while Munster's triumph on Saturday was the epitome of delivering when it matters.

Appointing one (if not all) of this trio for the post-Lancaster era might have been sensible. Farrell could even have returned to his homeland in 2018, but stayed with Ireland because England could not guarantee that he would succeed Jones as the head coach after the 2019 World Cup. Opportunity missed.

Malins and Daly give Borthwick a timely reminder

Stuart Barnes



Saturday's Premiership final wasn't in the same orbit as the previous weekend's European epic in Dublin but it will do. In particular, it will do for the England management who have substantial rebuilding work ahead of them before the World Cup. It wasn't an epic but it was hugely entertaining, not to mention intriguing material for Steve Borthwick and his fellow coaches.

It was a launchpad towards Paris, or rather Marseille, and England's critical clash with Argentina on September 9. Lose that first game and even the newly relaxed Owen Farrell will be struggling to raise a smile as they head along the Cote d'Azur to Nice to face a Japan team with a penchant for giant-killing during World Cups. Just ask South Africa and, to a lesser extent, Scotland.

The first name to be mentioned from Saturday's checklist has to be Farrell. Like England's Test cricketers, he has been reborn the happy, smiling sportsman, the snarls being occasionally aimed at the referee — well, you can't expect complete habit changes overnight — while he cheerfully breezes through the English domestic season in a league of his own.

The argument has been settled. He travels to France as the undisputed first-choice fly half. George Ford was good but Farrell was fabulous. Now that his shoulders aren't scrunched up waiting to wallop some poor opponent, he has found a flow to his game.

The petulance appears a thing of the past. He stood out from start to finish but there was a five-minute-or-so spell at the end of the first half that summed up his complete game.

In the 34th minute, he carried to the Sale Sharks defensive gainline and released a perfectly timed pass for his right wing, Max Malins, to pluck from space with ease, splinter the defence and score a try. Minutes later, a drilled kick to within a metre of the tryline showed that he hasn't forgotten his percentages, while an exquisite little reverse pass — again to Malins — was a delight that so nearly resulted in another try.

Ford couldn't compete with the repertoire but he is a fine player. Both should go to the World Cup but that is not to rule Marcus Smith out of the equation. The England management may regard the Harlequins No 10 as their third-best fly half, but Smith has a capacity to come up with the extraordinary. If England are chasing a game, it is the mercurial Harlequin who can reignite them as an impact replacement.

If Farrell suffers an injury, pre-match, there are reasons to think Borthwick will turn to Ford to shape the game.

Yet if Farrell stays fit, Ford doesn't fit into the 23-man equation. Saturday helped to clarify the fact.

The other man who must have played his way back into contention to start is Malins. He reads the game beautifully and, having played so long with the England captain, he can time those runs from off his blind-side wing either out or inside the fly half's shoulder with his eyes shut.

Anthony Watson, the present incumbent, is a great athlete, strong and elusive but as a rugby brain, Malins leaves him for dead. Just as he did the Sale defence in the first half. The England backline jigsaw still needs yet another Saracen behind the scrum. Elliot Daly came off the bench on Saturday and burst into the sunlight of potential England selection.

Admittedly he dithered for the Tom Roebuck try but as a roaming member of the back three, he is another who knows Farrell's game by heart. He also has that left foot. His penalty kick to the corner from near touch and the halfway line was impossibly good. As a classy footballer with a killer kick, he can offer England more than other options, preferably switching positions with Freddie Steward to maximise their very contrasting back-three assets.

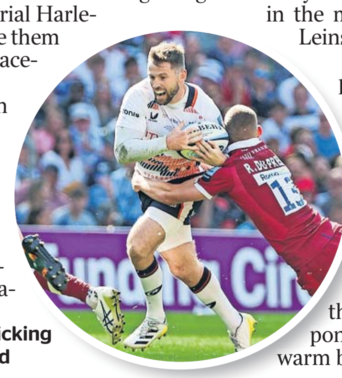
England didn't get to and through the gainline often enough in the Six Nations. That needs an immediate remedy. Now, it is too early to get too excited by Manu Tuilagi but this was the most thrusting we have seen him in a while, in a game of real intensity. Farrell embarrassed him with a strip of the ball in the first half but, overall, he carried to great effect to keep Sale on the front foot.

But England have to menace that gainline more than they have managed to date under Borthwick if men such as Tom Curry — superb in Sale colours — are to turn positive carries into rapid and potential tryscoring ball. England have to bombard that gainline. If Daly is trusted to weave his broken-field spells with his left boot as well as his running lines, England can throw even more into a midfield assault.

Daly's left foot balances the loss of Henry Slade at outside centre and enables the selectors to play the Premiership player of the season, Ollie Lawrence, at No 13. If Farrell brings his positive club game to the international arena the two could be equally terrific and terrifying.

Lawrence is not a natural kicker but I assume the Bath man is working on a variety of chips and grubber kicks to round off his game. If he isn't practising his range of kicks, Richard Wigglesworth should pop round to Bath in a hurry. The stab behind the onrushing midfield is what France's Jonathan Danty has assiduously added to his game. Danty was a barrelling tryscorer in the majestic La Rochelle v Leinster final.

Twickenham wasn't a panacea for all England's problems. They still have to rediscover a scrum and, most importantly of all, a scrum half to serve a stream of quick possession to England's reborn captain. Now there's a selection to ponder over a pint on a warm bank holiday.



Daly's running and kicking could benefit England

Alonso aberration gifts win

Alasdair Reid

Monaco



Max Verstappen started on pole, led all the way and won the race. The two drivers that followed him home, Fernando Alonso and Esteban Ocon, finished in their original grid order as well. So we had another dull procession at Monaco then? Anything but.

Even before the clouds rolled in to deliver the downpour that caused carnage for a few laps just after halfway, there had been plenty to keep spectators gripped to the action. While it's true that much of it was near the back of the field, there was still lots of uncertainty at the front too as teams pondered tyre choices and pitstop strategies.

It was only towards the end, after Aston Martin and Alonso had erred by putting on a new set of dry tyres as the rain began to tip down and then changing to intermediates — as almost everyone else was doing — one lap later, that Verstappen's lead looked unassailable. At the finish, Verstappen's winning time was almost half a minute better than Alonso's, but the margin was no reflection of the race as a whole.

Afterwards, Alonso defended the tyre strategy, arguing that only light rain had fallen on one small section of the track when the decision to continue on slicks, which he said was his call, was made. The kindest thing that could be said is that it was a gamble that did not pay off, although many observers took a rather more censorious view.

Alonso said: "For me it was very clear that the track on the lap when we stopped was completely dry, apart from turns 7 and 8. So why would we put on the inters, when it was completely dry on 99 per cent of the track? When I stopped for dries, the weather forecast was a small shower, and the small quantity of rain as well was what we had as a team [on radar data]."

Alonso explained that the team had asked him whether he wanted intermediates or medium dries as his pitstop loomed. Having opted for the slicks, he quickly realised that the weather had worsened suddenly when he got back on the track. "It was very wet when I got to those corners, but the lap that we stopped, it was completely dry," he explained.

After the heart-stopping drama of Saturday's qualifying sessions, there was an understandable concern that the race would be something of an anticlimax. A 20 per cent chance of rain by start time had introduced a degree of uncertainty, correct as it would turn out, but the cars at the front of the grid all made a clean getaway, although there was the expected jostling and minor contact further back.

That picture would remain largely unchanged as Monaco lived up to its notorious reputation as a track where overtaking is close to impossible. Sergio Pérez, starting last on the grid after his big accident in qualifying, injected intrigue into affairs when he stopped for hard tyres at the end of his first lap. By that point he had already passed two of his fellow tailenders, but even the huge power advantage of his Red Bull could not save him from getting tangled up in traffic later on.

All the while, Verstappen kept pulling further and further away at the front, opening up a lead of almost nine seconds over the second-placed Alonso by the end of the 20th lap.



Verstappen, centre, celebrates with the Red Bull team, who have won every race this year to open up a huge lead of 129 points in the constructors' championship

How they finished

M Verstappen (Neth) Red Bull 1hr 48min 51.98sec

F Alonso (Sp) Aston Martin +27.921

E Ocon (Fr) Alpine +36.990

4	L Hamilton (GB) Mercedes	+39.062
5	G Russell (GB) Mercedes	+56.284
6	C Leclerc (Mon) Ferrari	+61.890
7	P Gasly (Fr) Alpine	+62.362
8	C Sainz (Sp) Ferrari	+63.391
9	L Norris (GB) McLaren	+1 lap
10	O Piastri (Aus) McLaren	+1 lap
11	V Bottas (Fin) Alfa Romeo	+1 lap
12	N de Vries (Neth) AlphaTauri	+1 lap
13	Z Guanyu (Chn) Alfa Romeo	+1 lap
14	A Albon (Thai) Williams	+1 lap
15	Y Tsunoda (Jpn) AlphaTauri	+2 laps
16	S Perez (Mex) Red Bull	+2 laps
17	N Hülkenberg (Ger) Haas	+2 laps
18	L Sargeant (USA) Williams	+2 laps
19	K Magnussen (Den) Haas	DNF
20	L Stroll (Can) Aston Martin	DNF

	Driver	Team	Points
1	**Verstappen**	**Red Bull**	**144**
2	Pérez	Red Bull	105
3	Alonso	Aston Martin	93
4	Hamilton	Mercedes	69
5	Russell	Mercedes	50
6	Sainz	Ferrari	48
7	Leclerc	Ferrari	42
8	Stroll	Aston Martin	27
9	Ocon	Alpine	21
10	Gasly	Alpine	14

Fastest lap of race L Hamilton 1:15.650

	Constructors	Points
1	**Red Bull**	**249**
2	Aston Martin	120
3	Mercedes	119
4	Ferrari	90
5	Alpine	35
6	McLaren	17
7	Haas	8
8	Alfa Romeo	6
9	AlphaTauri	2
10	Williams	1

Alonso reported his suspicions that he had picked up a puncture, and while the word back from his team was that everything was all right, the issue was bound to affect his confidence.

The train of cars at the front was still in its grid order by the time the race reached a third of its distance. Carlos Sainz of Ferrari, running fourth, did try to buck the no-overtaking trend with a bold lunge at Ocon's Alpine as the pair hurtled down towards the harbour section, but Ocon shut him off and all Sainz got out of it was a broken front wing endplate.

A combination of graining tyres and running into tailend traffic started to cut Verstappen's lead. The Dutchman appealed to his team to allow him to change to hard tyres, but was told to stay out as he would surrender his position to Alonso if he stopped. His team-mate Pérez's race began to look ugly though, as he was forced to pit for a new front wing after clattering into the back of Kevin Magnussen and dropped back to 19th place.

Meanwhile, the clouds gathering over the mountains east of the track were becoming ominously dark. The growing likelihood of rain persuaded Verstappen to stay out on the track and he was soon past the 50-lap mark on the medium tyres he started with. The rain started to fall, a few spots at first but soon much heavier, convincing many of the drivers to pit for intermediates – with Alonso the notable exception.

Further back down the order, cars were sliding all over the place as Sainz spun, Lance Stroll buried his Aston Martin into a wall and Logan Sargeant spun and stopped mid-track. When Russell slid off, he rejoined dangerously, was collected by Pérez and received a five-second penalty for his rashness.

The cloudburst passed quickly. Verstappen had one small scare when he brushed a wall near the end, but this was another imperious performance by the reigning world champion as he collected his fourth win of the year and the 39th of his career.

"When you have a good car and it's reliable you can have these kind of numbers," he said afterwards. "Yes, it's great. I would never have thought I would be in this position in my career. When I grew up I wanted to be a Formula One driver, so winning these races is amazing."



Russell rues 'his lack of

Alasdair Reid

George Russell's fifth-place finish in Monaco moved him ahead of Ferrari's Carlos Sainz in the championship standings, but the Mercedes driver was furious with himself for the error that he believes cost him and his team a podium place.

Russell slid off the road at Turn 5 of the tight and twisting circuit shortly after changing to intermediate tyres. To make matters worse, when he rejoined the track he was struck by the fast-approaching Red Bull of Sergio Pérez. Stewards then handed him a five-second time penalty for the manoeuvre that led to the collision.

While Russell's fifth place, coupled with team-mate Lewis Hamilton's fourth, gave Mercedes their best haul of constructors' points of the season so far, the 25-year-old was angry that his lapse of concentration had led to such a basic mistake as failing to negotiate a relatively straightforward corner.

"I'm really kicking myself as P3 was almost guaranteed," Russell said. "I came out, there was a yellow flag, so I backed off. But as soon as I touched the brakes I locked up and followed Lance Stroll [the Aston Martin who had gone off at the same point a few moments earlier] up the escape road.

"It's probably a lesson that when you're not on it and you're not focused then you make those mistakes. If there wasn't a yellow flag there I would probably have been focusing more and wouldn't have gone off and cost the team a comfortable P3. I don't really know what more to say.

"It's very bitterly disappointing when you do everything right for 98 per cent of a race and then one tiny mistake costs everything.

"I don't think it was clear to many people that we were effectively P3 on track and lost it. A lot of people have texted me saying 'well done for P5', not realising that I actually made a big mistake and cost us a P3."

Russell expressed his fury with a tirade over the team radio, causing team

to Verstappen

PIROSCHKA VAN DE WOUW/REUTERS; MARK THOMPSON/GETTY IMAGES; XPB/PA



Often criticised for being stale, this year's race was thrown open by the sudden change in weather after the halfway stage

focus' but Mercedes take step forward



Wolff, pictured with Ineos's Sir Jim Ratcliffe, told Russell to calm down

principal Toto Wolff to make a rare intervention to persuade him to calm down. "I was venting my frustration at myself," he said. "Nothing really more than that. As a driver you sometimes want to get the frustration out of your body. It's maybe not easy for people to understand why."

Russell lost his two places to Hamilton and Alpine's Esteban Ocon while he tried to get his car back on track. As things turned out, the five-second penalty he was given had no effect on his final position as he was still far ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc after it had been applied. However, he admitted that his coming together with Pérez had damaged his car and he was concerned for some time that it could bring his race to a premature end.

He said: "I wasn't sure if I was going to be able to continue, but it kind of sorted itself out as the laps progressed. I think the toes got bent at the rear end and I felt really uncomfortable in the car, but we were the quickest on track during that period so I don't really know what was going on."

Russell's post-race mood was in sharp contrast to the sense of collective satisfaction at Mercedes after the first competitive outing of the upgrade package they have added to a W14 car Wolff had earlier described as 'poisonous' due to its erratic driving characteristics. Hamilton said: "It was a good result. Overall, as a team, I think we have stepped forward. To get a fourth and fifth in such a tricky race as it was today is such a good result. The team did a really solid job today with strategy and to beat the Ferraris was awesome.

"It feels like the car has progressed and moved forward. Next week [at the Spanish Grand Prix] we'll get a much better feel for it as we'll be in a place where we can really push through the medium and high-speed corners. But overall it has been positive."

Wolff sounded more cautious, pointing out that Mercedes still have a lot of ground to make up to compete with the all-conquering Red Bull outfit.

"When you win in Formula One it is a meritocracy," Wolff said. "They have done a good job, their car is fast in all conditions and their driver [Max Verstappen] is at the top of his game. We need to do a better job, catch up, find intelligent solutions and hope our development slope is steeper than theirs and eventually fight again."

There is a chance I will have to sell, says Dyche after survival

CONTINUED FROM BACK

for me other than getting the job done." Dyche, who took over in January and whose contract included a survival bonus of about £1.5 million, insisted he did not possess "magic dust" to sprinkle over a club who have now flirted with the drop for two successive seasons.

Instead, he demanded everyone at Everton aligned to start performing as a "big club".

"There is no point in sitting on it and saying, 'Look how great we are' because it is not like that. There is loads to change here and a lot of work to be done but it was a big step to secure it," Dyche said.

"The work on next season started the day I got in here. Don't think I thought this was an easy fix because it is not. Far from it. There is a massive amount of work to be done. The thing I've learnt about Everton is the fans have been amazing, they want the club to be in the top end of the market but the club is not at the top end of the market.

"It's a big club, big history, but we are not performing like a big club. We have to find a way of changing that. This is two seasons now. There is a massive amount of change to build to a new dawn, a new future, a bigger future.

"I think the Evertonians, as remarkable as they have been, have to remember that. This is a bigger project than just, 'Oh well, it's all right now.' I don't have magic dust, I can only make things happen I think are believable. It is definitely a reason to be happy but we have to demand more internally. The fans know the truth. They know this wasn't a walk in the park."

Despite avoiding a first relegation since 1951 and tapping into the finances that come with Premier League status, there remains the prospect of Everton having to sell members of their squad to balance the books. One outstanding alleged breach of the Premier League's profit and sustainability rules has still to be heard by an independent commission.

Dyche knows that his hand will be restricted somewhat and further talks will take place with the owner, Farhad Moshiri and the director of football, Kevin Thelwell.

"Everton have been doing it under various managers and people have said to me it's been coming away for three seasons," Dyche continued.

"It is not a quick fix. It's not just 'buy a player, hurrah it's all solved'. They've tried that in the past, it's not that easy.

"You have to build a belief in a new culture. If you ask five die-hard Evertonians what the club stood for they would probably give me five different answers. The club has to realign. There was a time when it was 'earthy, hardworking. Give a lot to the shirt. Pride'. I'm not sure they are as obvious now.

"That's the base I want to build but I want to play good, attractive, winning football but it has to start with something. There have been signs this team will work, fight and give everything. Don't think Pep's [Guardiola's Manchester City] side just play beautiful football, they work, they defend, play hard, as well as being ultra-top footballers.

"There's a chance [I'll have to sell]. I'll find out about that. There's been peripheral talks based on ifs, buts and maybes. I'd be very surprised if they say there is going to be another war chest. There is a beautiful stadium down the road [Bramley-Moore dock] and someone has to pay for that.

"But that will come over the coming weeks when we find out the truth of what we have got. We had to get this sorted out, we've got it over the line."



Everton won 21 points in 18 games under Dyche

Error at last costly for Hall

Golf

Harry Hall fell agonisingly short of a fairytale PGA Tour win last night at the Charles Schwab Challenge in Forth Worth, Texas.

The Cornishman led after each of the first three rounds but a bogey on the 18th hole yesterday pushed him out of a play-off that was eventually won by Emiliano Grillo at the 2nd hole.

Hall, 25, in his first year on the PGA Tour, hit his drive on the 18th into the water and salvaged only a bogey from there, meaning he missed out by one shot after a final-round 73. Hall had led for much of the tournament and held off a field during the weekend that included Scottie Scheffler. His error meant he tied for third alongside the world No 1.

A visibly upset Hall said: "Winning on the PGA Tour was a lot closer than I probably thought it was. I didn't need amazing golf to get it done."

KJT lifted by return to form

Athletics

Katarina Johnson-Thompson believes she is back to her best after an encouraging second-placed heptathlon finish in Gotzis yesterday.

The 30-year-old racked up a score across the seven events of 6,556 — her best tally in an outdoor heptathlon since taking the world title in Doha back in 2019.

"I don't think the score truly reflects where I am at but everything is going in the right direction and I can see a path back," she said. "Last year I was just asleep competitively. But now I feel supermotivated again because I know I can do better."

A highlight for Johnson-Thompson came in the high jump, where she cleared 1.89m. She also shrugged off a foot injury suffered in the 100m hurdles. The American Anna Hall, 22, finished with an impressive 6,988 points to claim victory.

Sport



Mike Atherton

'Ball of the Century' still mesmerises, 30 years on

Ashes countdown, pages 54-55



TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER BRADLEY ORMESHER

'This can't happen again'

● Doucouré saves Everton and relegates Leicester
● Goodison club's cycle of failure must end, says Dyche

Everton	1
Bournemouth	0

Paul Joyce
Northern Football Correspondent

Sean Dyche has said that Everton must be ready to embrace a "massive amount of change" after helping the club to ensure a 70th consecutive top flight season with a nerve-racking victory over Bournemouth.

Abdoulaye Doucouré's wonderful strike from the edge of the penalty area sealed a 1-0 victory and condemned Leicester City and Leeds United to relegation to the Championship.

After scenes of relief and then recrimination against the club's board, who were absent again after long-running protests against how the club has been run, the Everton manager spelt out the reality of how a fraught scramble to safety must now give way to a revival.

"I said to the players, 'We shouldn't be here. Enjoy this today and you've earned it but at the end of the day it has got to change,' Dyche said. "It's a horrible day for all concerned, there is no joy in it

Continued on page 59

The Game
16 pages of pure football
Inside T2





Doucouré celebrates his stunning goal that kept Everton in the Premier League at the expense of Leicester City and Leeds United on the final day of the season

Pochettino signs contract

Tom Roddy

Mauricio Pochettino has signed a three-year contract to become Chelsea head coach.

The club ended the Premier League season in 12th position, their lowest finish for almost three decades, after a 1-1 draw with Newcastle. Pochettino's appointment as permanent successor to Graham Potter, who was sacked in April, has been agreed in principle for several weeks, and the former Tottenham Hotspur head coach has now formally signed his deal.

His arrival will bring an end to Frank Lampard's underwhelming interim spell in charge. Lampard said: "I'm a big fan of Pochettino, he's a very good manager. The standards had dropped [at Chelsea]. I can be honest about that, particularly as it's my last game. I might not see some of them that much anymore."

Full story, The Game, pages 8-9

Ukrainian is booed in Paris

Stuart Fraser Tennis Correspondent

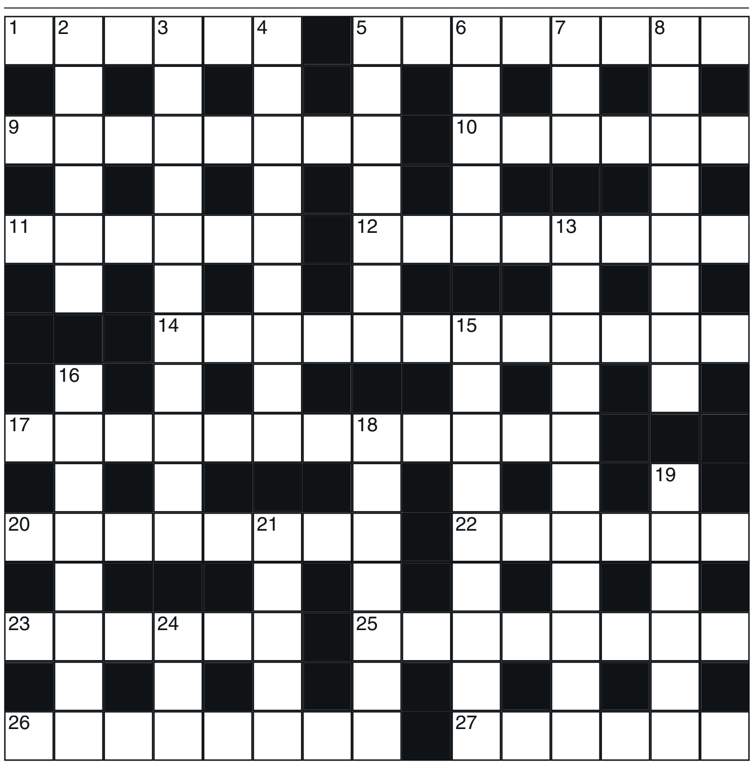
A Ukrainian tennis player was booed by the crowd in Paris for refusing to shake hands with her Belarusian opponent in the first main-stadium match of this year's French Open.

Marta Kostyuk, the 20-year-old world No 39, has previously turned down the traditional post-match gesture with players from Russia and Belarus because of the invasion by military forces in her home country. This did not change yesterday after defeat by Aryna Sabalenka, the world No 2 from Belarus. And the Ukrainian called out the crowd for their boos after the match.

"I didn't expect it," she said. "People should be embarrassed, but this is not my call. I want to see people react to it in ten years when the war is over. They will not feel nice about what they did."

Report page 52

Times Crossword 28,615



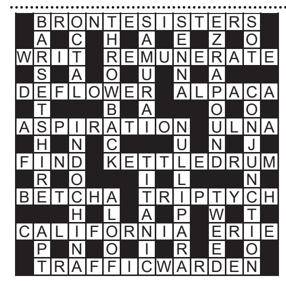
ACROSS

1 Tramps on front of porch, one attracted by our neighbour (6)
5 One's not expected America to back British pronunciation to increase (8)
9 In election meeting Conservative on look out for Liberal to interrupt (8)
10 *Times* covers revolutionary Iran in a sort of code (6)
11 In team playing left half, powerful winger (6)
12 A tactic I deployed to find lake (8)
14 Mysterious object Alice might have seen in the Duchess's kitchen? (6,6)
17 As a result of hard work cracked a new profession (3,4,5)
20 Spare new driver always having to cover paper round (4,4)
22 The story, in short: depressed, being fat (6)
23 In the front beautiful arrangement in flowerbed (6)
25 Steal in? (4-4)
26 Useless people on this stage? (4,4)
27 Omen to take railway not street in holiday month (6)

DOWN

2 Catch a husband, a smoker (6)
3 WWI soldier at end of leave gets this order wrong (4,2,5)
4 Don't sack old city: keep it under your boot perhaps (5,4)
5 Old poet all bones, lacking later energy (7)
6 It's inhuman to black men needing a lift (5)
7 Function in series (3)
8 Wounded with gun, strain to get inside (8)
13 Almost consider retail a kind of therapy (11)
15 Crime against ploughman reported in a flash (9)
16 Left individual with a few in solitary (8)
18 Dry chapter trimmed all round (7)
19 Agree scam must get old police turning up (6)
21 Successor to Leo VI right to abdicate (5)
24 Dandy dropping Ecstasy is a failure (3)

Prize solution 28,608



Check today's answers by ringing 0905 757 0141 by midnight. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke 0333 202 3390.

The winners of Prize Crossword No 28,608 are
H Duncan, Twickenham, Greater London
D Faith, Chinnor, Oxfordshire
A Harker, Oxford
D Reynolds, Glossop, Derbyshire
P Summer, London NW8

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The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2020 was 67%

22
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THE TIMES
thegame
MONDAY MAY 29 2023
All the action from the weekend

PAGES 2-3
Everton survive… but how do they avoid being in such peril again?

PAGE 16
Ian Hawkey on Bayern's title win and the sackings that followed

PREMIER LEAGUE 2016



FA CUP 2021



The party's over

Vardy inspired Leicester to Premier League and FA Cup triumph but now they are back in the Championship

PAGES 4-5

RELEGATED 2023



PAUL CURRIE/SHUTTERSTOCK; NIGEL FRENCH/PA; MICHAEL REGAN/THE FA

Doucouré comes in from cold to rescue Everton

Everton	B'mouth
1	0
Doucouré 57	

RATINGS
Everton (5-4-1): J Pickford 8 — J Garner 9, Y Mina 7, C Coady 8, J Tarkowski 8, D McNeil 8 — A Onana 7, I Gueye 7, A Doucouré 9, A Iwobi 7 — D Gray 7 (E Simms 87). **Booked** Pickford.
Bournemouth (4-3-3): M Travers 6 — A Smith 6 (J Anthony 83), I Zabarnyi 6, M Senesi 6, L Kelly 6 — J Lerma 6, P Billing 6, R Christie 6 (K Moore 65, 6) — D Brooks 7 (M Viña 56 6), D Solanke 7, D Ouattara 6. **Booked** Smith, Senesi, Solanke, O'Neil.
Referee S Attwell.

FANS' VIEW OF THE SEASON

Joel Parker Toffees Analysis
Frank Lampard failed to fill important positions and we've suffered as a result. Sean Dyche has made us more solid, but it was a rough season **3/10**

Sam Davis Back of the Net: The AFC Bournemouth Podcast
Although we were tipped for relegation, achieving safety with games to spare was fantastic **7/10**







HENRY WINTER



Chief Football Writer
Goodison Park

If you know your history, you know Everton will fight and how hard they fought here at Goodison Park. The players fought for their professional lives, and fought to preserve their club's run in the elite division that dates back to 1954.

"Fight for us," urged a huge banner lifted above the heads of those in the Park Stand. Fight for the fans, for the shirt, for the health of the club. Fight to keep Everton up. The history books showed that the most recent time Everton were in the second tier Roger Bannister was breaking the four-minute mile, postwar rationing was officially finally declared over and Duke Ellington, Bing Crosby and Doris Day were in the UK charts.

"This is a proud football club with a proud history and a proud fanbase, and relegation from the top division of the English game is simply not an option for us," Seamus Coleman wrote in his programme notes. Although injured, Coleman spoke to his team-mates. They understood the enormity of their predicament.

With Leicester City leading, Everton had to win otherwise their 69 successive seasons in the best league in the land would be consigned to history. A player that Frank Lampard almost consigned to history, Abdoulaye Doucouré, provided the finesse to the fight, settling the game and the nerves with a majestic finish from the edge of the area just before the hour mark.

Brought back in from the cold by Sean Dyche, Doucouré delivered. And if you know your history, you know Everton love a final-day long-range strike for survival. Everton fans will never forget Barry Horne's 25-yard half-volley equaliser in the comeback win over Wimbledon in 1994 or Gareth Farrelly's 30-yarder against Coventry City in 1998.

Doucouré was named man of the match but this was a collective fight from all of Dyche's men. Jordan Pickford showed why he is England's No1, a point chorused loudly by fans, with vital saves from Dominic Solanke and Matias Viña, the latter during the nerve-shredding ten added minutes.

It showed the fine margins of elite sport that Pickford's quick reactions, mentally and physically, seeing the danger, flinging himself to his left, stretching out a hand to repel Viña's shot meant the difference between bliss and sorrow. A fraction's misjudgment by Pickford and Everton would have been down.

Others delivered too, rising to the challenge. James Garner was relentless at right wingback, foraging forward and working so hard defensively, also showing admirable composure to dribble the ball out from the back at one point in a game short on calm and long on frenzy. Garner was playing out of position and excelled.

Over on the left, Dwight McNeil fought back to help his defence, and raced forward, putting in crosses.

Dyche's galvanising effect on McNeil, making him more direct and confident, has been so important in Everton's survival fight. Dyche has re-organised the team and restored belief, and his half-time talk at 0-0 was key. "Stay calm," he told his team, "keep playing".

And keep playing for the fans. They were magnificent, steadfast and vocal in their support during this tense afternoon. Evertonian emotions were lifted up and dragged down, stretched and tested until all involved in this famous, troubled club were finally left elated and exhausted.

If you know the situation here, you know Everton now have to make sure they never get in this mess again, a point Dyche made eloquently afterwards. Unity is needed, and the damaging impasse with board members has to be addressed. Greater investment is required, especially in a fit, reliable centre forward. Dyche was unable to fill his bench here.

The club first have to answer allegations of breaches of Premier League FFP rules, which they say they will "robustly defend". A points deduction would be no way to start the new season.

At least they will be in the Premier League. Doucouré made sure of that. So did the fans. Long before Doucouré's moment of magic, songs of defiance were in the air, mingling with the drifting plumes of the smoke-bombs let off by fans heading to Goodison, rivers of blue flowing to the stadium, breathing more life and spreading more noise. A father in the main stand leaned towards his young son, punching the air in time to one of the endless chants, and the boy followed suit, learning the ritual, sharing the moment, and the tension in the minutes to come, and then the joy of Doucouré's finish.

Until then, Everton again lacked a target man. Demarai Gray ran hard up top, winning a corner from Lloyd Kelly, but they missed the injured Dominic Calvert-Lewin.

When Doucouré drilled in a low cross, there was nobody there. Everton certainly had their chances before the break but Mark Travers was outstanding in the Bournemouth

HOW FINAL DAY UNFOLDED

Relegation zone

How we stood pre-kick-off

		Played	GD	Pts
17	Everton	37	-24	33
18	Leicester City	37	-18	31
19	Leeds United	37	-27	31
R 20	Southampton	37	-37	24

● Harry Kane scores in second minute and heads drop at Elland Road. Leeds would go on to lose 4-1 as their relegation was confirmed

		Played	GD	Pts
17	Everton	38	-24	34
18	Leicester	38	-18	32
19	Leeds	38	-28	31
R 20	Southampton	38	-37	25

● Harvey Barnes scores in the 34th minute to put Leicester in front. They would go on to win 2-1

		Played	GD	Pts
▲ 17	Leicester	38	-17	34
▼ 18	Everton	38	-24	34
19	Leeds	38	-28	31
R 20	Southampton	38	-37	25

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER BRADLEY ORMESHER; CARL RECINE/REUTERS; ROBIN JONES/AFC BOURNEMOUTH/GETTY IMAGES





Dyche punches the air, left, while a tearful Amadou Onana is mobbed by fans, above, and other supporters enjoy the moment of Everton's survival amid the smoke of fireworks. Right, Pickford squares up to Solanke as tensions rise



goal, twice denying Idrissa Gueye before the break.

Bournemouth were showing the integrity in the Premier League, fighting hard, demonstrating their development under Gary O'Neil, formerly assistant manager of Liverpool's Under-23s. Travers punched away a Doucouré curler, then pushed out a shot from Garner.

Everton fans jeered the visitors' touches, their pre-match huddle, their goalkeeper's occasional time-wasting. But a brief period of silence, almost mourning, descended on Goodison when news came through of Leicester leading against West Ham United.

Everton had to score now, they had to win, otherwise they faced only a fifth season out of the leading division in 134 years. Inspired by Dyche at the interval, Everton came out transformed, turning their fighting spirit into a winning one. Gueye lifted the ball in, Marcos Senesi headed out and Goodison held its collective breath as the ball dropped towards the unmarked Doucouré on the edge of the area.

Salvation beckoned. The ball bounced and rose invitingly. Doucouré poured all his force into it, as if imparting all the energy amassed within Goodison. He connected perfectly, too quick for Adam Smith, who was trying to throw himself in the way, and too fiercely for Travers.

Goodison erupted. Fireworks went off. The father in the main stand lifted his son high into the air, his cap almost coming off, giving him a better view of the celebrations.

Down below, Garner was first to reach Doucouré, followed by Gray, then Alex Iwobi, then the rest of the outfield players. Conor Coady leapt on Doucouré's back. A fan joined in.

Everton still had 33 minutes to negotiate. Pickford rescued them, denying Solanke, as chants of England's No1 filled the air. Pickford then had a disagreement with Solanke, and went down, nursing an injured finger. Ten additional minutes were signalled, which felt a lifetime, the seconds moving slowly while hearts were racing quickly. Pickford made that save, and then nirvana, the final whistle, players embracing, staff hugging, the little lad hoisted up again, taking in the scenes.

About 500 fans entered the pitch, including one supporter pushed in a wheelchair who stopped for a selfie. Another fan ripped his shirt off, sprinted to the middle, knelt and kissed the centre spot. Everton's love affair with the top flight continues. But they still have work to do, wounds to heal, a squad to rebuild, and Everton will need that fighting spirit.

● Abdoulaye Doucouré scores in the 57th minute and Everton cling on to preserve their top-flight status

		Played	GD	Pts
▲17	Everton	38	-23	36
▼18	Leicester	38	-17	34
19	Leeds	38	-29	31
R 20	Southampton	38	-36	27

Final whistle

		Played	GD	Pts
17	Everton	38	-23	36
R 18	Leicester	38	-17	34
R 19	Leeds	38	-29	31
R 20	Southampton	38	-37	25

Safe at last but Dyche's mission has just begun

PAUL JOYCE



Northern Football Correspondent
Goodison Park

Goodison Park and a date with destiny — the setting and scenario continue to create memories to exhilarate Everton supporters.

As fingernails were being chewed, nerves shredded and prayers uttered, perhaps it was only to be expected that a midfielder with dynamite in his boots would step forward and produce an iconic moment.

After Barry Horne in 1994 and Gareth Farrelly four years later, it was another midfielder, Abdoulaye Doucouré, who conjured the sweetest of screamers when lashing home a volley from the edge of the penalty area past Mark Travers, the Bournemouth goalkeeper, just before the hour mark.

"I'm not a hero," Doucouré demurred afterwards, but the Everton supporters still singing in the streets and honking their car horns long after the final whistle outside this famous old arena would all disagree.

Doucouré's intervention cut through the 23-minute spell in which Everton had stared ignominy in the face with Leicester City winning, and his strike felt like a shot at redemption in more ways than one.

Doucouré was, after all, the player in exile during the final remnants of Frank Lampard's tenure, told to train on his own owing to a bust-up after a miserable defeat to Southampton.

The Mali international had stood up for team-mate Idrissa Gueye as a row ensued with the manager and, when the problem festered into the next week, he was the one who was marginalised.

On the first day that Sean Dyche officially took over in January, he recognised Doucouré's worth and has harnessed his talents, with the 30-year-old being a key performer in the latest successful quest for safety. His contract was extended by 12 months last week to prevent him leaving on a free transfer and his continued presence will be treasured.

Redemption also now rings out for Everton collectively.

After Conor Coady, James Tarkowski, the excellent James Garner and Jordan Pickford puffed out their chests to guide their side through ten minutes of added time that pummelled the senses; pandemonium gripped this arena.

A pitch invasion ensued, one which will now bring an investigation from the FA, with euphoria and relief evident along with the acrid plumes from the blue flares that drifted across the skyline.

Reality would then bite hard to provide the starkest of contrasts to 12 months ago, when there was only a sense of celebration at Everton staying afloat after their penultimate game of the season.

A year ago, Lampard had greeted a rollercoaster win over Crystal Palace by dancing a jig of delight on top of one of the directors' boxes.

Yesterday, immediately behind where he had become lost in the sheer delirium of that occasion, there were four empty blue seats. They had been vacated by the Everton directors who have been advised not to attend home games for the past ten matches, with supporters' patience at how the club is run having snapped.

Chants of "sack the board" soon rang out from the hordes who stayed behind and change is now desperately needed to restore a sense of unity and ensure Everton edge away from being a perennial calamity club.

The erosion of trust is beyond repair and Farhad Moshiri, the owner, needs to start showing the leadership that he has previously eschewed during his seven-year tenure.

While relegation would have compounded a litany of existing financial problems, some players will still have to be sold to try to balance the books.

There remains, of course, that single alleged breach of the Premier League's profit and sustainability rules that has yet to be heard by an independent commission, much to the chagrin of Leeds United and Leicester, whose fury will not dissipate any time soon.

Someone such as Amadou Onana, signed from Lille for £34 million last summer, may be a candidate to be moved on despite impressing here, especially as the apparent interest from Arsenal and Chelsea raises the prospect of a profit on the deal.

Overall, there is a need for stability, which is only one reason why Dyche will be entrusted with shaping the future in conjunction with the director of football, Kevin Thelwell.

Credit to Dyche for completing the job he was tasked with. Injuries have had an impact, making him flip formations and bring back overlooked players such as the excellent Coady, but he has found a way.

Plenty of other managers are lauded for doing likewise.

Now, Dyche needs to dovetail selflessly with Thelwell, make striking reinforcements a priority and address the deep-rooted design faults that left Everton on the precipice.

His post-match press conference was illuminating in that respect, a sign that he understands what is required.

Not for the first time, Everton stepped back from the brink. The wake-up call must finally be heeded.

HOW THEY FINISHED

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Man City (C)	38	28	5	5	94	33	61	**89**
Arsenal	38	26	6	6	88	43	45	**84**
Man Utd	38	23	6	9	58	43	15	**75**
Newcastle	38	19	14	5	68	33	35	**71**
Liverpool	38	19	10	9	75	47	28	**67**
Brighton	38	18	8	12	72	53	19	**62**
Aston Villa	38	18	7	13	51	46	5	**61**
Tottenham	38	18	6	14	70	63	7	**60**
Brentford	38	15	14	9	58	46	12	**59**
Fulham	38	15	7	16	55	53	2	**52**
Crystal Palace	38	11	12	15	40	49	-9	**45**
Chelsea	38	11	11	16	38	47	-9	**44**
Wolves	38	11	8	19	31	58	-27	**41**
West Ham	38	11	7	20	42	55	-13	**40**
Bournemouth	38	11	6	21	37	71	-34	**39**
Nottm Forest	38	9	11	18	38	68	-30	**38**
Everton	38	8	12	18	34	57	-23	**36**
Leicester (R)	38	9	7	22	51	68	-17	**34**
Leeds (R)	38	7	10	21	48	78	-30	**31**
Southmptn (R)	38	6	7	25	36	73	-37	**25**

Leicester pay price for mess

Leicester City	West Ham
2	1
Barnes 34 Faes 62	Fornals 79

RATINGS
Leicester City (4-2-3-1): D Iversen 6 — T Castagne 6 (for R Pereira 90+1min), W Faes 6, J Evans 7, L Thomas 5 — B Soumaré 6, K Dewsbury-Hall 6 (N Mendy 71) — J Maddison 7, Y Tielemans 6, H Barnes 7 — K Iheanacho 7 (J Vardy 77). **Booked** Evans.
West Ham United (4-2-3-1): L Fabianski 6 — V Coufal 5, T Kehrer 6, N Aguerd 6, A Cresswell 6 (Emerson 71) — D Rice 6, F Downes 6 (M Lanzini 86) — P Fornals 6, L Paquetá 6 (M Cornet 71), S Benrahma 6 (J Bowen 62, 7) — M Antonio 6 (D Ings 62, 5). **Booked** Ings.
Referee S Hooper.

FANS' VIEW OF THE SEASON

Matt Davis Foxes Trust
It has been a dreadful season. Sadly there was little, if anything, to have been excited about **1/10**

Sue Watson West Ham United Supporters' Trust
The season has been inconsistent: really good, bad and ugly. Performances have been everything from outstanding to dire **6/10**







JAMES GHEERBRANT

Leicester City's nine-year stay in the Premier League ended with a group of players huddled around a phone, hoping for a miracle, then breaking apart, drifting away, a slow dissolution. They had done their bit, getting the win they craved, and when Harvey Barnes scored in the first half, the escape was on and they believed. But they were reliant on events elsewhere, and Everton's victory against Bournemouth rendered their win moot. Seven years ago, when this feisty Midlands club wrote the great fairytale of the Premier League era, they held the world in their palms. At the moment it all came to an end, their fate was in other hands.

They will wonder how they got themselves into such a parlous position. In this performance, they showed the quality of a side who should have stayed up, comfortably. This season has been a mess, a slide which the sacking of Brendan Rodgers could not arrest and Dean Smith could not reverse. The cost will be real: jobs will probably be lost, players sold, losses absorbed, the lettering and livery of the top flight replaced. The loss of status will sting, and it will be only a partial consolation to Leicester fans that from these nine years, they wrung every last drop.

Ultimately, Leicester's defending sent them down. Not for 12 years have a team been relegated from the Premier League having scored as many as 51 goals. But Leicester let in 68, and kept only seven clean sheets all season, and even in victory here the frailty which has undermined them was apparent. Recruitment in that area especially has been poor, talent giving way to lesser and lesser talent, a gradual erosion of quality bringing the cliff-edge ever closer.

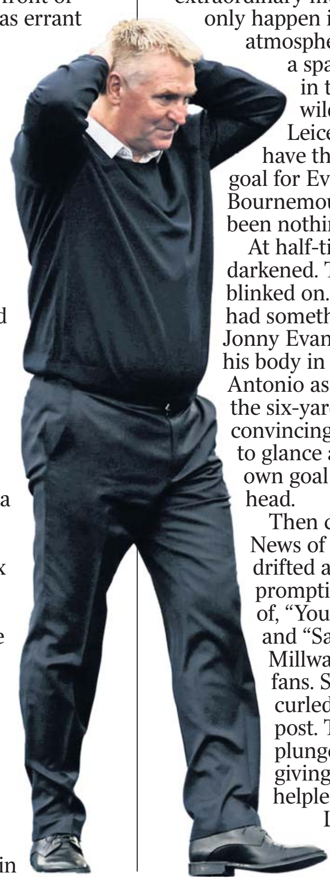
The mood at the King Power Stadium, despite the tribulations of this season, was almost entirely supportive. Leicester didn't tear into West Ham United, but built steadily. Kelechi Iheanacho turned Vladimir Coufal and had James Maddison underlapping him, but his pass was overhit. Then, he brought down Maddison's lofted pass in front of goal, but his first touch was errant enough to allow Nayef Aguerd to intercept.

The air seethed with the sound of thousands of paper clappers being slapped against palms, a brittle rattle of anxiety and hope. A loose Luke Thomas touch was almost disastrous, but Wout Faes hacked clear.

Leicester were lively enough to keep the crowd fully engaged. Iheanacho touched the ball off for Barnes, whose low shot was comfortable for Lukasz Fabianski. Closer yet, the striker played a slick one-two with Maddison, then whistled a shot over.

The twist was coming. Barnes drove into the box and passed to Iheanacho, whose wall pass had the perfect, unexpected angle to spring Barnes clear. The winger kept his cool, holding off Flynn Downes and rolling the ball past Fabianski. The noise which enveloped him was deafening.

Leicester were in no mood to sit on the lead. Maddison had two shots in swift succession. Then there was an extraordinary moment which could only happen in the tinder-dry atmosphere of the final day, a spark of excitement in the stands igniting wild cheers.



Leicester's players must have thought it heralded a goal for Everton's opponents, Bournemouth, but there had been nothing of the sort.

At half-time, the skies darkened. The floodlights blinked on. Now Leicester had something to weather. Jonny Evans did well to get his body in front of Michail Antonio as a cross dropped in the six-yard box. Less convincing was his next act, to glance a corner past his own goal off the back of his head.

Then came a chill wind. News of an Everton goal drifted around the ground, prompting gleeful chants of, "You're going down" and "Say hello to Millwall" from the away fans. Saïd Benrahma curled a strike against a post. The atmosphere plunged, hopefulness giving way to helplessness. Then Leicester changed the mood again, Faes glancing Youri Tielemans' free kick past Fabianski. The home team were holding up their end of the bargain; now they needed salvation from afar.

The match took on a curiously disembodied feel, happening but really happening elsewhere. West Ham should have scored through their two substitutes: Jarrod Bowen stung the gloves of Daniel Iversen from a tight angle and, from the rebound, unselfishly teed up Danny Ings, who fired over with the goal open. Then they did pull a goal back when Thomas lost possession and Pablo Fornals stroked the ball in off the inside of a post.

As the clock ticked down, Dean Smith brought on Jamie Vardy, the folk hero of the Leicester fairytale, the giant-slayer who ran on Red Bull and was held together by bandages, and the mood was the same paradoxical mix of amped-up fragility. Again, the Leicester fans erupted, seemingly signalling a goal for Bournemouth, but again it was a false alarm; their Premier League status was still hanging by a thin thread.

Leicester got the win, but nothing happened in those prayerful, powerless minutes after the final whistle to change their fate. As the news sunk in, the players trudged round the pitch, clapping, met with applause and a smattering of boos. For the club, a hard summer, then a new mission. Once, Leicester sat atop this golden pyramid. Now they'll have to claw their way back up it.

Smith: This is an elite club that can come straight back

CHARLOTTE DUNCKER

Dean Smith believes that Leicester City can make an immediate return to the Premier League.

Everton's win against Bournemouth meant that Leicester dropped down to the Championship for the first time in nine years. But Smith, who took charge for the final eight games of the season after the departure of Brendan Rodgers, believes that the "elite" level of the club will help to guide them straight back up.

"The raw materials this club has, [it's] an elite club. It feels raw now and it hurts and everybody will be devastated but with the infrastructure it has got, it can bounce back," Smith said. "There have been plenty of times where you have knocks and your job is to bounce back and make sure you improve on the things that let you down. I have no doubt the club will."

It was an afternoon of high emotion for the Leicester fans at the

of own making

MOLLY DARLINGTON/GETTY IMAGES



Barnes places the ball beyond Fabianski to give Leicester hope. But as news filtered through of an Everton goal, fans fell flat, below, and some appeared to turn on each other, above, while Smith, below left, was unable to save them



PREMIER LEAGUE PRIZE MONEY

Final league positions and total cash fund, £m

Club	£m	Club	£m
Man City	165.7	C Palace	128.5
Arsenal	162.2	Chelsea	133.4
Man Utd	158.6	Wolves	120.6
Newcastle	156.8	West Ham	125.4
Liverpool	155.7	Bournemouth	115.2
Brighton	142.1	Nottm Forest	114.1
A Villa	141.1	Everton	116.5
Tottenham	145.1	Leicester	111.2
Brentford	133.1	Leeds	110.2
Fulham	132.9	Southampton	102.5

How the prize funds break down

For every club:	Domestic TV fee	Foreign TV fee	Commercial fee
	£31.8m	£48.9m	£6.8m

Club	Facility fee, £m (live TV)	Foreign merit money, £m	Domestic merit money, £m
Man City	23.6 (27)	22.4	32.2
Arsenal	22.8 (26)	21.3	30.6
Man Utd	22.8 (26)	20.2	29
Newcastle	21.9 (25)	19.1	27.4
Liverpool	24.4 (28)	18	25.8
Brighton	13.5 (15)	16.9	24.2
A Villa	15.2 (17)	15.8	22.6
Tottenham	21.9 (25)	14.7	21
Brentford	12.7 (14)	13.6	19.3
Fulham	15.2 (17)	12.5	17.7
C Palace	13.5 (15)	11.4	16.1
Chelsea	21.1 (24)	10.3	14.5
Wolves	11 (11)	9.2	12.9
West Ham	18.6 (21)	8.1	11.3
Bournemouth	11 (11)	7	9.7
Nottm Forest	12.7 (14)	5.9	8.1
Everton	17.7 (20)	4.8	6.4
Leicester	15.2 (17)	3.7	4.8
Leeds	16.9 (19)	2.6	3.2
Southampton	11.8 (13)	1.5	1.6

King Power Stadium, with Harvey Barnes's first-half goal while Everton were still being held to a goalless draw meaning they were effectively out of the relegation zone for 57 minutes.

Alan Birchenall, a club legend, had taken to the pitch before the game to give one last rousing speech to ask for the fans' support. "You can and you will make all the difference" was his sign off, but in the end there was nothing the club's faithful could have done to change their fortunes.

Three times they were given false hope with whisperings of a Bournemouth goal filtering through the stands. Supporters jumped out of their seats and celebrated only to have their hopes dashed when the realisation set in that there had not been another goal at Goodison Park.

With the final whistle blown in Leicester first, Smith and his players faced an anxious wait. Supporters, who were warned not to enter the pitch should there be a late change in their fortunes, hung around tensely waiting for clarity on their situation.

James Maddison was hunched in the centre circle and had to be helped up by security staff as their fate was confirmed by the full-time whistle at Everton.

Boos started to ring out from the home crowd, some of whom even appeared to turn on each other in the stands. They have had to watch some desperate performances this season, and while this was one of their better displays, it was too little too late. "Foxes never quit" was the club mantra etched on the front of the pre-match programme, which was ironic given some of their lacklustre outings this season. A large chunk of this squad seemed to have quit on the fight to stay up a long time ago.

Smith would not detail all of Leicester's struggles this season and instead only referenced the eight games he has been in charge of. It was, he believed, the dropped points against Leeds United, Everton and Fulham that have come back to haunt them after they were relegated by just two points.

This is not just the end of a Premier League era for Leicester but the end of a cycle at the club, with seven first-team players out of contract and a need to sell players to fund an inevitable rebuild. Maddison was one of the last players off the pitch as he applauded all four stands after what is likely to have been his last appearance for the side, while Youri Tielemans also had a chance to say his farewells. Jonny Evans, one of those out of contract, said he and his team-mates exchanged goodbyes in the dressing room knowing there will be a different set of players here next season.

"It is a tough thing to take," Evans said. "There was silence for a long time in the dressing room afterwards.

"We know there are a lot of players out of contract. There are going to be changes. It was an opportunity for everybody to say goodbye really. A lot of us don't know where we are going to end up. I said to the boys it has been an amazing five years but the club now have decisions to make. I don't think they probably know what they are going to do."

While there is plenty of uncertainty in the coming days and weeks, Smith is sure that they need to use this as a moment to reset.

"Any club that gets relegated, they have to find a way to bounce back. There are plenty of knocks in football, [but] it is, as we all know, week in and week out, about how you bounce back," Smith said. "With the infrastructure I see no reason why it can't bounce straight back."

It seems unlikely that Smith will be the man to lead that reset. He was only ever brought in, with assistants Craig Shakespeare and John Terry, for the short term in the hope that they could pull off a miracle. In the end, nine points from eight games was not enough.

"Seven weeks, eight games — we didn't speak about anything beyond that. I will speak to Top [the club's chairman, Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha], who I have an awful lot of respect for, over the next couple of days and commiserate with him because the time and effort he puts into this football club is there for all to see," Smith said. "I am certainly not thinking about my future at the moment. It is raw getting relegated now, I'll go away and reflect on it."

TONY CASCARINO



Weekend talking points

Odegaard didn't make my side but Kane was a must

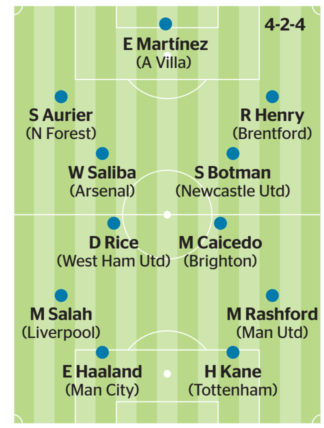
I was asked to pick my Premier League team of the season, but with the proviso that I could not choose more than one player from each team. That ruled out at least five or six Manchester City players and left some really difficult choices.

So, there is no room for the magnificent Martin Odegaard or Bukayo Saka of Arsenal, Kieran Trippier and Nick Pope at Newcastle, or Ivan Toney from Brentford. And there are lots more candidates. But my choices have had outstanding seasons, even though they may raise eyebrows.

For instance, Emiliano Martínez may not be everyone's favourite goalkeeper, but he has made some amazing saves in the back half of the campaign that has helped Aston Villa's rise up the table.

And a year ago, if I'd included Serge Aurier at right back, everyone would have said I was nuts. He seemed to make a mistake every week, but has been one of Nottingham Forest's most consistent and unsung heroes. Similarly, Rico Henry has been a revelation. The Brentford defender reminds me of Ashley Cole. Mohamed Salah has been Liverpool's best player and instrumental in their resurgence. Marcus Rashford has had his best season at Manchester United and having him on the left of the attack allows me to alter my formation and include Harry Kane. No one could hold a candle to Erling Haaland as the player of the season, but Kane has been outstanding for a disappointing Tottenham team. I could not leave him out so had to have two players up front.

TEAM OF THE SEASON



Everton need best ever summer of recruitment

Everton survived for another season, but it was a poor game against Bournemouth. Such a lot of diving and play-acting. Yerry Mina is 6ft 5in but he always seemed to fall to the ground like a naughty kid.

I don't have good feelings about Everton. They have to have the best summer of recruitment they have ever had or they will be in the same position next year as they were this year and last year.

They look so, so ordinary. They don't have the basis of a good team at all.

And they cannot go into a third season with Dominic Calvert-Lewin being injured so often. They have to keep him fit or find another option — and that is not Neal Maupay.

Everton need to do great transfer business or they face a relegation battle yet again.

Villa's success is another feather in Emery's cap

I often ask colleagues if they would rank Unai Emery among the top 15 coaches in Europe? I certainly would and he has shown why again at Aston Villa.

The Spaniard has improved practically every player by 5 to 10 per cent. Ollie Watkins is a more clinical forward, John McGinn and Jacob Ramsey have been brilliant in midfield and Tyrone Mings is an England player again after being completely out of sorts under Steven Gerrard.

That Villa team was in freefall under Gerrard. Good coaches make players better rather than just write them off because of certain things they can't do. Emery recognises players' strengths and plays to them. And with his record of winning trophies, don't be surprised if Villa win the Europa Conference League next season.

Brighton won't let the vultures swoop in again

Brighton and Brentford have had remarkable seasons and the "big seven" clubs will be hovering like vultures, ready to pick off their best players. But I'd be surprised if Brighton will let both Alexis Mac Allister and Moisés Caicedo leave, despite Roberto de Zerbi's words yesterday. Huge profits just bring a huge tax bill. When I signed for Aston Villa in 1990, the club chairman Doug Ellis told me that if I didn't come they'd sign someone else, as he'd rather spend money on a transfer than give it to the taxman.

Luton Town cannot lose their never-say-die spirit

Congratulations to Luton Town on their promotion — but they face as big a challenge as any team that has gone up to the Premier League. They will have the smallest capacity stadium ever and, undoubtedly, the smallest budget. But in building a team for next season, manager Rob Edwards must not lose that unity and never-say-die spirit within his squad.

New signings on higher wages can upset the balance, but the hard-working attitude and team spirit is Luton's biggest asset right now.

Porous Leeds put out of their misery by Kane

Leeds Utd	Tottenham
1	4
Harrison 67	Kane 2, 69 Porro 47, Moura 90+5

RATINGS
Leeds United (5-4-1): J Robles 5 — L Ayling 6, R Kristensen 5, M Wober 5 (J Firpo 60min, 5), L Cooper 6, P Struijk 5 (B Aaronson 59, 5) — W McKennie 5 (G Rutter 60, 5), A Forshaw 6, R Koch 6, J Harrison 7(W Gnonto 88) — Rodrigo 6
Booked Struijk, Wober, Cooper.
Tottenham (4-4-2): F Forster 6 — Emerson Royal 5, D Sanchez 6, C Lenglet 7, B Davies 6 — P Porro 7 (L Moura 90+1), Y Bissouma 5 (M Craig 77), O Skipp 5 (G Abbott 90+1) Son Heung-min 7 (Richarlison 76) — D Kulusevski 6 (P Sarr,77), H Kane 8.
Referee A Taylor.

HIS PREMIER LEAGUE RECORD

Kane and Alan Shearer (1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96) are only men to reach 30 goals in a season more than once

Season	Goals
2012-13	0
2013-14	3
2014-15	21
2015-16	25
2016-17	29
2017-18	30
2018-19	17
2019-20	18
2020-21	23
2021-22	17
2022-23	30

FANS' VIEW OF THE SEASON

Gyp Walters Leeds Supporters Trust
Awful. A toxic mix of a stalled takeover, poor recruitment, bad management and muddled tactics **1/10**

Darren Bayley Warwickshire Spurs
It's been really disappointing all round, epitomised by the cup exit to Sheffield United. At Tottenham we want to see attacking fast flowing football. This wasn't the case **5/10**

ALYSON RUDD

After three seasons in the Premier League that delivered everything from panache to recklessness through to desperation, Leeds United could summon neither the attacking prowess nor good sense in defence required to return to the Championship with a performance that might signal a swift return to the elite.

In the end they could have won handsomely, and it would not have mattered, but they did little to unsettle performances elsewhere and were relegated with bitterness in the air. Tottenham Hotspur were also at the mercy of other outcomes and missed out on qualification for the Europa Conference League in spite of a clinical and occasionally joyous display.

Sam Allardyce decided to conduct training at Elland Road in the build-up to the final day. It presumably was at least partially intended to create the sense that Leeds were in a cup final, albeit the sort where you can win but still lose. This was, for sure, not a typical league match but the performance was pretty par for the course. Leeds have been far too porous this campaign.

Leeds have been a tricky puzzle for Allardyce to solve. The Marcelo Bielsa years were so lacking in pragmatism that for Allardyce, the ultimate pragmatist, to be invited to save the team from relegation, felt slightly bizarre and tinged with panic.

Just before the players strode out, there truly was a sensation of electricity in the air. If thousands of people are all, at the same time, nervous, apprehensive and yet clinging to hope while aware that they will be increasingly distracted by goals scored elsewhere, then the atmosphere will reflect that. The feeling was not dissimilar to being at the peak height of a roller coaster just as it becomes motionless before the hair-raising rapid descent. The roar that greeted the teams could not have been more heartfelt and desperation was, for a moment, well hidden.

It was the sort of day where it was easy to forget about the opposition. Tottenham may or may not have had something to fight for depending on whether you think any European football is better than none. Many supporters were not overly keen on their club qualifying for the lowest rung of Continental football when a Champions League place had seemed realistic not so very long ago.

The mood altered inside two minutes as Harry Kane executed one of his trademark cool finishes after the quick brain and even quicker feet of Son Heung-Min had found him in a crowded penalty area. There was a brief VAR check but few inside Elland Road held their breath. The goal stood and Allardyce, below, flung a piece of half-chewed gum to the floor and visibly shrunk in stature.



The home team really should have equalised a few minutes later as a sumptuous cross from Jack Harrison was met imperiously by Robin Koch, but his header was, almost unaccountably, wide. Still, the early Spurs goal served to shake the nerves from the Leeds players and they began to display some inventiveness.

As Weston McKennie delivered a limp effort, news came through of a goal for Leicester City and the Spurs fans helpfully sang that Leeds were going down.

Leeds won plenty of headers in the Spurs box but could not direct them accurately. The first half ended with Rasmus Kristensen firing in an effort but, once more, the target was missed. The half-time chat in the Leeds dressing room had to stress that all things were still possible. It was too late to work on shooting practice but not too late to instil a dash more optimism, and sure enough the Leeds players emerged early for the second half in an effort to look bright-eyed, bushy-tailed and ready to give it their all. It did not work.

Kane was able to flick the ball to Pedro Porro, even though the England captain had to navigate his way past the referee, and the Spaniard was able to double Spurs' lead from a difficult angle. The grumbling began in earnest then. There is going down and there is going down while looking inept

Allardyce made a triple substitution that, it is fair to say, failed to inspire the crowd but a period of energy did ensue, and Harrison pulled a goal back with a composed finish. Allardyce celebrated as if it meant more than it actually did, which was neatly illustrated by Tottenham scoring again almost immediately with Kane neatly chipping the flailing Joel Robles so that he finished the season with 30 league goals, which would have prompted much gushing if it had not been for the impact made by Erling Haaland at Manchester City. It is astonishing to state it, but Kane's productivity has gone under the radar and that Spurs have underperformed has contributed to an overall lack of appreciation.

In the fifth minute of added time Lucas Moura sidestepped a series of half-hearted challenges to score Tottenham's fourth.

It was an elegant way for him to mark the end of his five-year stint at the club. But for the home fans, the jeers began. It was a miserable way to say goodbye to the Premier League.



Kane scores his second goal of the game past Robles to become only the second

Allardyce set for talks

MARTIN HARDY

Sam Allardyce will hold talks this week about staying on as the head coach at Leeds United, despite the club's relegation to the Championship.

Allardyce failed to record a single victory during his four games in charge at Elland Road, after his appointment on May 3, and yesterday's 4-1 defeat at home to Tottenham ended Leeds' three-year stay in the Premier League.

The 68-year-old, however, revealed that he wants to become permanent manager of the club and has already set out his plan for the future.

"I think if I'm going to do anything it's going to be here," he said. "Those discussions will have to happen in the next few days. We will have to sit down and thrash it out.

"Overall you need to sit down and discuss the whole infrastructure of the club and how you can take what you've got and build on it and that will have to be in the Championship.

"I can tell them what I think needs to be done, then they can say what they think or how they think. I haven't said I'm staying yet. There is a lot of discussions on both ways, whether it is me or it is not me. I am not committing myself to say I am staying just yet."

The former England manager apologised to the club's supporters for the relegation, which follows his demotion at his previous club, West Bromwich Albion.

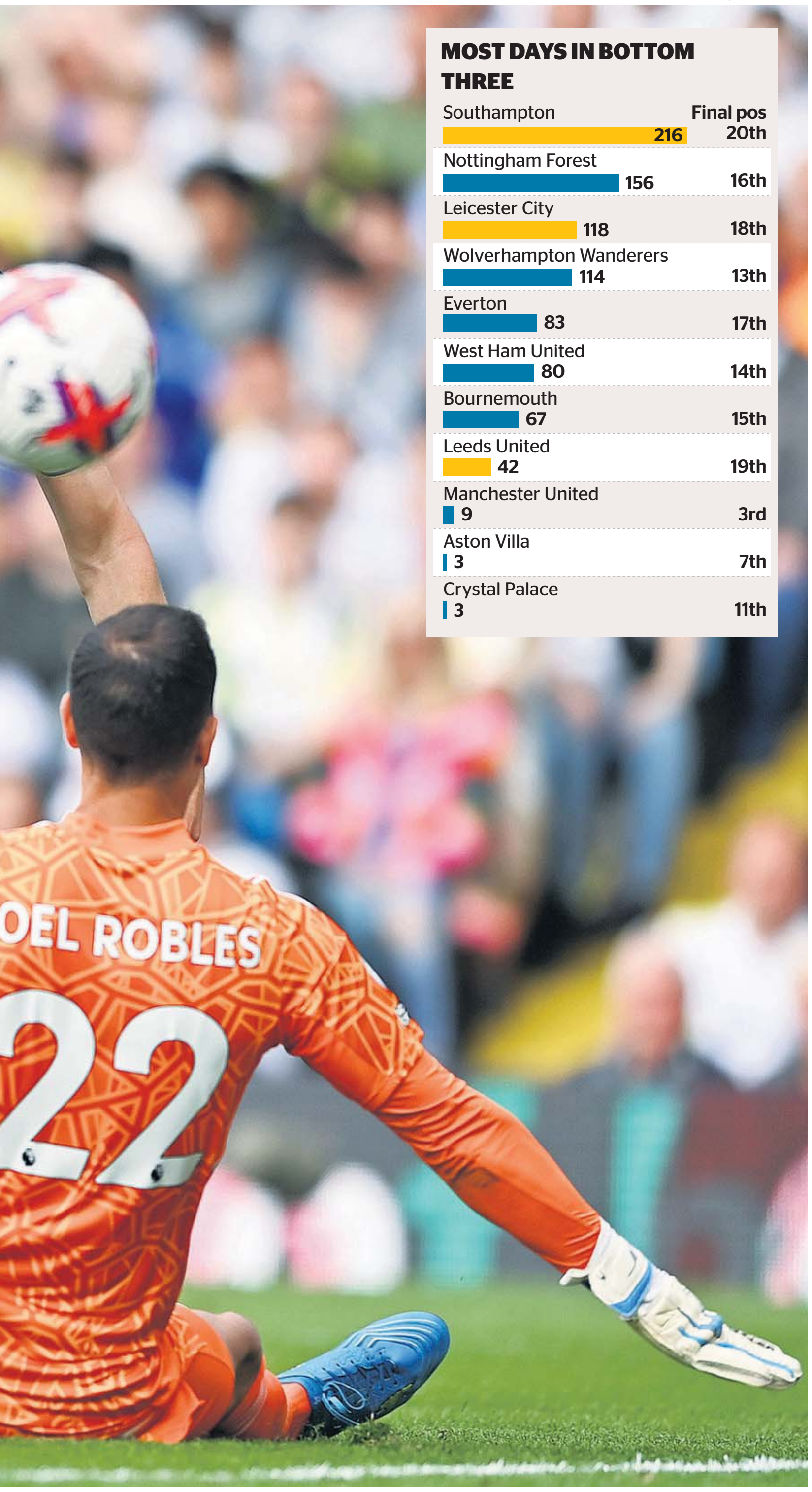
Leeds supporters vented their fury at the team with repeated chants of "You're not fit to wear the shirt".

The on-loan Juventus midfielder Weston McKennie faced a chant of "You fat bastard" when he was substituted and when Georginio Rutter threw his shirt into the crowd at the end of the game, it was hurled back.

"We didn't leave a stone unturned and it's really sad Leeds is in this position," Allardyce said. "To the fans I apologise I didn't do better and the players didn't win at least two out of the four games and give ourselves a bigger opportunity to stay in the Premier League.

"I have really, really – I can't say I

GARETH COPLEY/GETTY IMAGES



MOST DAYS IN BOTTOM THREE

	Days	Final pos
Southampton	216	20th
Nottingham Forest	156	16th
Leicester City	118	18th
Wolverhampton Wanderers	114	13th
Everton	83	17th
West Ham United	80	14th
Bournemouth	67	15th
Leeds United	42	19th
Manchester United	9	3rd
Aston Villa	3	7th
Crystal Palace	3	11th

player in Premier League history to score 30 or more goals in a season twice

Emery eyes trophies as Villa dig out passports for Europe

Aston Villa	Brighton
2	1
Luiz 8 Watkins 26	Undav 38

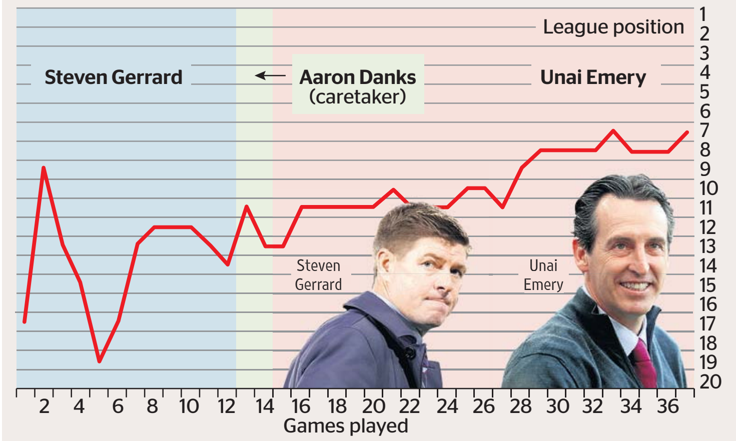
RATINGS
Aston Villa (4-2-3-1): E Martínez 6 — M Cash 6, E Konsa 7, T Mings 7, L Digne 7 — B Kamara 7, Douglas Luiz 8 — L Bailey 7 (E Buendía 69min, 6), J McGinn 8, J Ramsey 8 — O Watkins 7. **Booked** Cash, Ramsey, Mings, McGinn.
Brighton (4-2-3-1) J Steele 6 — J Veltman 5 (P Estupiñán 46), A Webster 6 (J P van Hecke 65, 6), L Colwill 6, P Gross 6 — Y Ayari 5 (M Caicedo 46, 6), A Mac Allister 6 — F Buonanotte 6, D Undav 7 (J Hinshelwood 89), J Enciso 6 (K Mitoma 65, 6) — E Ferguson 6. **Booked** Undav, Buonanotte, Caicedo, Gross.
Referee D Coote.

FANS' VIEW OF THE SEASON

Ben Smith Villa Supporters' Trust
Disastrous start, and credit to the club for swiftly appointing Unai Emery. We believe a domestic cup is soon within reach **8/10**

Stuart Matthews, Proud Seagulls
Exceptional, amazing. What a season! I don't think any of us thought that this year we would get a place in European football. Speechless **10/10**

HOW ASTON VILLA FARED UNDER THREE MANAGERS



GRAHAM HILL

Unai Emery described Aston Villa's return to European competition for the first time in 13 years as a "champagne moment". Emiliano Martínez went further and told Villa supporters after the game: "It's the Champions League next."

Emery has spearheaded a remarkable turnaround for a team that had been facing relegation when he arrived in November. Villa made sure of the win they needed to qualify for next season's Europa Conference League; goals from Douglas Luiz and their top scorer, Ollie Watkins, sparking wild celebrations.

Emery's achievement cannot be overstated. When he took over from Steven Gerrard, Villa had won three of their first 13 games and were hovering above the relegation zone. It meant the Spaniard's first task was to stop Villa going down. But he did just that, and more. Few would have predicted Europe for Villa at the end of the season, but Emery — a four-times Europa League winner — was encouraging players and supporters alike to dream big. He will manage in European competition for a 16th consecutive season.

Villa's qualification for Europe is their first since 2010, a campaign that ended with a Europa League defeat by Rapid Vienna, a little over two weeks after Martin O'Neill had resigned as manager. "Today is a champagne moment," Emery said. "When you are working and focusing week-to-week, you are not having a lot of days to celebrate something."

Emery says he will now plan for next season, when he knows Villa will have another ten games added to their calendar. They have already targeted the Leicester City winger Harvey Barnes.

"I will keep in touch, every day, every month about the possibilities of what we can add," said the Villa manager. "I hope we can add trophies as well as Europe. I enjoy playing in Europe a lot. And I think the supporters are excited to travel."

Villa went ahead after seven minutes. The impressive Jacob Ramsey — who made both goals — pulled the ball back for Luiz 15 yards out and he was able to pick his spot.

Ramsey was involved again as Villa added a second after 26 minutes. John McGinn, the captain, won the ball on the halfway line and found Leon Bailey, whose first-time pass set Ramsey clear. He took a calm touch, despite Jason Steele, the Brighton & Hove Albion goalkeeper, bearing down on him. A quick flick into the path of Watkins left the striker with the relatively simple task of scoring his 16th league goal of the season.

Brighton's Deniz Undav — who had had one goal ruled out by VAR — looked to have suffered a similar fate before the break when he ran on to a Pascal Gross free kick and scored. But this time VAR showed the German forward was onside.

McGinn took the microphone after the game and told supporters: "Bring your passports — see you in Europe."

The Brighton coach Roberto De Zerbi said that Alexis Mac Allister and Moisés Caicedo are likely to have played their last games for the club. Mac Allister, a target for Liverpool, and Caicedo, linked with a £75 million move to Arsenal, appeared to say their farewells after the game.

"I'm really sorry because they are two great people and great players. But the policy of Brighton is like this," said De Zerbi.

to stay for rebuild

enjoyed it but I'm glad I came back. I can't enjoy anything when I don't win. It's not me. The disappointment is huge. It's a bad day."

Allardyce accused the players of "professional suicide".

"We made unforced errors," he said. "Errors you don't need to make. We gifted three goals today.

"Most of it comes down to how good are your players. These players have tried very hard and I can't fault their effort but as a squad they have not been good enough. That's why they are in the bottom three. I would have hoped to get a lot more out of them, I take responsibility for that."

Allardyce was Leeds' fourth manager of the season, after Jesse Marsch, Michael Skubala and Javi Gracia. His potential permanent appointment is complicated by the planned sale of the club. 49ers Enterprises was due to purchase Andrea Radrizzani's 54 per cent holding in a deal that would have valued the club at about £420 million. It is thought 49ers Enterprises is still keen on completing the takeover – they have 44 per cent – but that the total value of the club has fallen to £150 million.

"Obviously how the club is going to go forward and who with is important," Allardyce said. "Is it going to be bought? Is it going to stay the same? It is the first thing that needs to be sorted out before the club speaks to me."

Ryan Mason, the interim Tottenham manager, also spoke of the desire for clarity in their future, with a key managerial appointment coming this summer.

"There's some huge decisions to make for the football club," he said. "First of all, who do we want to be going forward and realising who fits that as members of staff and then players as well.

"We probably need to understand where we want to go and who we want to be. Once you decide that you can employ the people who fit that.

"We have to get back to who we are and who our fans want us to be. The most important thing for any club in football is to have an identity and know who you want to be and stick to that."

Future uncertain for Hodgson and Zaha

Crystal Palace	Nott'm Forest
1	1
Hughes 66	Amoniyi 31

RATINGS
Crystal Palace (4-2-3-1): S Johnstone 6 — J Ward 6, J Andersen 6, M Guehi 6, T Mitchell 6 — C Doucouré 7 (J McArthur 67min, 6), W Hughes 6 (J Riedewald 90) — M Olise 6 (N Ahamada 90), E Eze 8, J Ayew 6 — O Edouard 5 (J-P Mateta 68).
Nottingham Forest (3-4-2-1): W Hennessey 7 — J Worrall 8, W Boly 7 (E Dennis 72), M Niakhate 6 — S Aurier 7, R Yates 6, O Mangala 6 (C Kouyate 72), R Lodi 6 (H Toffolo 46, 7) — M Gibbs-White 7 (A Ayew 89), B Johnson 6 — T Awoniyi 7 (S Surridge 89). **Booked** Gibbs-White, Yates.
Referee T Bramall. **Attendance** 25,198.

FANS' VIEW OF THE SEASON

Jay Crame The Eagles Beak
We came into the season with optimism under Patrick Vieira, but things went a bit sour and Hodgson has done a great job **6.5/10**

Vicki Connell Forest Supporters Trust
The season went very well, considering the number of signings — and injuries **7/10**

NICK SZCZEPANIK

Crystal Palace may have finished seven points ahead of Nottingham Forest after this draw and avoided relegation far more comfortably, but it could be argued that it is yesterday's visitors to Selhurst Park who appear more stable going into the close season. Steve Cooper, the Forest head coach, has enhanced his reputation, while Palace could lose their manager, with Roy Hodgson yet to learn whether the club want him to continue in the dugout, or to say whether he would welcome any such offer.

"I haven't made any decision about my future, here or anywhere else," Hodgson, 75, said after yesterday's 1-1 draw. "The only decision I have made is to keep very quiet when people try to get me to say 'This is my last game' or 'You will never see me in football again.' It might very well be the case, but I will wait to see what happens."

Palace's best player, Wilfried Zaha — absent with injury yesterday — is also yet to decide whether to accept the offer of a lucrative new contract after his present deal expires next month. At 30, his options for setting his sights higher than being a big fish in a relatively small pond are surely narrowing.

Forest, in contrast, may actually be in a position of wanting to lose players after negotiating the season with a bloated squad after 25 players arrived at the City Ground over the past two transfer windows for an outlay well north of £100 million.

Cooper, though, is staying and looking to improve on this season's narrow escape. "It is a good feeling to be part of something we can continue to build. I am determined to do that," he said. "We have got to make sure it is a productive summer."

Taiwo Awoniyi put Forest ahead, beating Joachim Andersen twice before shooting low past Sam Johnstone.

But Palace's Eberechi Eze was in no mood to end the week of his first England call-up in defeat, and he drove the team forward until Will Hughes glanced home the equaliser from a cross by Michael Olise.

Lampard: Pochettino offers club an identity

Chelsea	Newcastle
1	1
Trippier (og) 27	Gordon 9

RATINGS
Chelsea (4-3-3) K Arrizabalaga 6 — C Azpilicueta 6, T Chalobah 6 (W Fofana 45min, 6), T Silva 6, L Hall 7 — R Loftus-Cheek 6 (C Chukwuemeka 59, 6), E Fernandez 6, C Gallagher 6 (M Kovacic 70, 6) — N Madueke 7 (C Pulisic 87), K Havertz 6 (J Felix 59, 6), R Sterling 6.
Newcastle (4-3-3) M Dubravka 8 — K Trippier 6, F Schar 6, S Botman 7, M Targett 6 (D Burn 75) — E Anderson 7 (L Miley 76), B Guimarães 6, A Gordon 7 (J Murphy 70, 6) — M Almirón 6, A Isak 7 (J Lewis 88), A Saint-Maximim 7 (C Wilson 70, 6).
Referee J Gillett. **Attendance** 40,130.

FANS' VIEW OF THE SEASON

Dan Silver Chelsea Supporters Trust
Very disappointing given the high standards we set. A multitude of reasons as to why. Very forgettable. Zero positives from the season **3/10**

Jamie Smith Newcastle fan
Realising our smothered potential, brilliant season with everyone at the club all pushing in the same direction everyone's happy on Tyneside **9.5/10**

TOM RODDY

The Stamford Bridge PA system was blasting out the Chelsea anthem, Blur's *Parklife*, at full time, but hardly anyone could hear it. By then, the only corner of the stadium still draped in sunlight carried the Newcastle United fans, where many exposed torsos were turning a dark shade of salmon as they celebrated this staggeringly successful season by serenading Eddie Howe's team with a deafening and constant chorus.

They had spent the afternoon singing about trips to the San Siro and Bernabéu after securing a return to the Champions League with their highest finish since Sir Bobby Robson's team of 2003. Howe is held in just as high regard and met club executives on Saturday night to prepare a plan for the summer transfer market. This time, with those deep pockets of the Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund, the belief is that they are here to stay.

Who is still at Chelsea by the time a Premier League game kicks off again at Stamford Bridge was the most significant question of the day as the club signed off on a woefully dreadful campaign in 12th in the Premier League.

44
Chelsea's points tally is their lowest in the top flight since 1987-88 when they managed just 42 and were relegated

7
Newcastle went unbeaten in London in a top-flight league season for the first time since 1996-97 (W4 D3)

Ken Bates, the 91-year-old former chairman who sold the club to Roman Abramovich 20 years ago, would have been able to tell those alongside him in the directors' box about the days of old when the club regularly finished in the bottom half of the Premier League. But Todd Boehly and his Clearlake partners will believe that this is an anomaly.

The final whistle on a surprisingly entertaining 1-1 draw offered a chance to say good riddance to an awful season. This felt like an afternoon of farewells. Ruben Loftus-Cheek and Mason Mount, who have developed from boys to men at Chelsea, appeared to say goodbye as the final figures to disappear down the tunnel after a rather understated lap of honour.

What's certain is Frank Lampard's departure, his role as head coach coming to an end with an honest assessment of the eight weeks in charge as caretaker. "We lost too many games but when I look back at the situation I came into, the situation was sown before that and I'm coming in at the back end of the season where some challenges had probably grown. You live and learn in everything," Lampard said.

"The standards had dropped. I can be honest about that, particularly as it's my last game. I might not see some of them that much anymore. The standards, as a collective at a club like Chelsea, have to be at the maximum or you won't be physically competitive enough, or be able to play at a high enough level or speed that the Premier League demands.

"The players are sort of happy to have a break. They have to take responsibility for this season as a collective but also individually. It's up to all of them to show the pride and dedication it takes to be a Chelsea player and take the club forward."

Lampard welcomed the appointment of Mauricio Pochettino, with the former Tottenham Hotspur, Southampton and Paris Saint-Germain coach having signed his three-year deal, but warned against lifting expectations too high.

"I'm a big fan of Pochettino as a manager, I think he's a very good manager," Lampard said. "Pochettino's history tells you he works with clubs at this level. Letting him get to work with the players to try and create a solid identity will mean a team wins more games. Those things are not always overnight things. We have to be careful with expectations a little bit."

Pochettino will have, at least, appreciated the sight of Chelsea's young players, such as Lewis Hall, Noni Madueke and substitute Carney Chukwuemeka, impressing in this encounter. The outcome meant very little but perhaps provided some kind of warning to Newcastle of the potential for normality to resume next season.

Chelsea were the more dominant team yesterday, fittingly wasting the opportunities that presented themselves to the many wide forwards who figured, but left having earned a point. Anthony Gordon, one of those wingers they targeted last summer, opened the scoring with ease owing to woefully poor marking from Lampard's defence, but his team rallied and Raheem Sterling's efforts forced Kieran Trippier into scoring an own goal.

"Next season will be even harder for us," Howe said. "The players need to come back fit and ready for an exciting season ahead. We have to prove how good we are all over again. We have to prove ourselves, if we can add one or two players that make the difference that will be good news."



Chelsea 'family'

Wistful looks of Mount and Loftus-Cheek speak volumes as curtain falls on a damaging season for the club, writes **Owen Slot**

In the 60th minute here at Stamford Bridge, there was a substitution that seemed to carry gravitas. The substitutes board flashed up the No 12, indicating that the game was done for Ruben Loftus-Cheek, and therein began his slow exit: a pronounced clapping to all four stands, as though he was thanking them for more than just their support on a sunny last day of the season.

Large sections of the crowd responded by getting to their feet and chanting his name. They knew what he knew — that this may well not be au revoir, it may be goodbye for good.

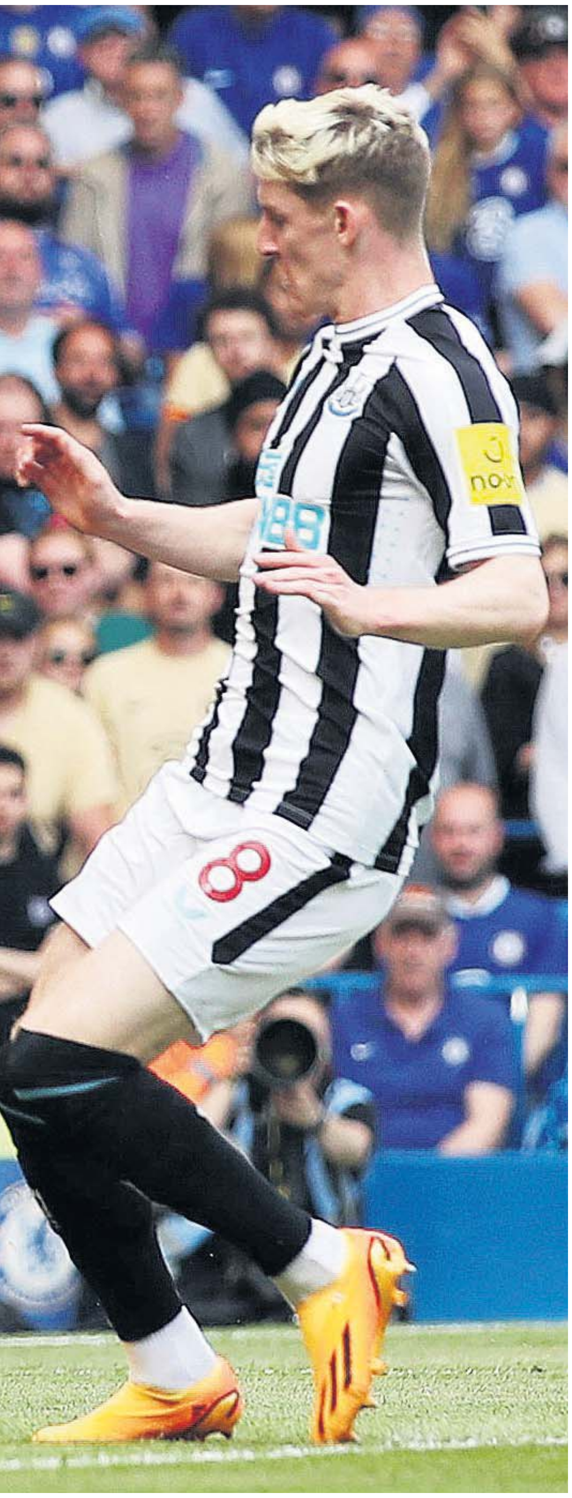
That is Loftus-Cheek who has been with Chelsea since the under-eights. No one wants to see a home-grown player go, but of course it happens. What doesn't happen, though, is a clearout of a whole generation. That is what may be pending here.

So it was fitting, then, after the final whistle, as the Chelsea players did their end-of-season lap of goodbye, that Loftus-Cheek should be lagging at the back and finally making his exit down the tunnel with Mason Mount. Last time for you, too, Mason?

Mount didn't play yesterday. He has been struggling with a pelvic injury. Yet his was the same kind of wistful, long-look goodbye and thank you. And that is Mount who has been playing with Chelsea age-grade groups since he was six. He is almost certain to be gone too.

At half-time, Chelsea had subbed off Trevoh Chalobah. He may well not be here next season; and he too has been a Chelsea product — from as far back as the under-nines. Twenty-five minutes into that second half, he was followed by Conor Gallagher. Same story here: been training with Chelsea since he was six, may now be gone.

CHRIS RADBURN/REUTERS; CHRIS LEE/CHELSEA FC/GETTY IMAGES; DAVE SHOPLAND/SHUTTERSTOCK





Gordon, a former Chelsea target, beats Arrizabalaga for the opener, while above, Lampard places a consoling arm around Mount. Both are unlikely to be at the club next season as is Loftus-Cheek, below



pay for Boehly blunders

This is the sting in the tail here. You've just completed the most hilariously inept season and you must be relieved it is finally done. But it isn't really, is it? Because the reality is that Todd Boehly and his co-owners have played such a lame hand in the transfer market that, to make the numbers work again, they are having to put their home-grown players up for sale.

As a fan, the emotional connection with your local talent is almost always tighter. They're like family. Yet they are the ones who are having to go to pay for the bungling of Boehly.

Really, Chelsea should be building for next season around Mount. Unfortunately, he is their prized asset and therefore the first one on the market.

No, this hasn't gone down well inside the club. Of course it hasn't. At the start of the month, we reported in these pages about the staff who lead the academy and how they are considering whether they want to stay at the club.

Certainly, the work and reputation of the Chelsea academy is outstanding. In the decade 2010 to 2020, Chelsea won seven out of ten FA Youth Cups. The International Centre for Football Studies in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, recently ranked the youth academy graduates of clubs worldwide, estimating their transfer value, and Chelsea were second behind Benfica.

The frustration, for many years, was the struggle that Chelsea's home-grown faced in breaking into the first team. However, partly because of the embargo on transfers placed on the club in 2019, a raft of newbies were accelerated into first-team football by Frank Lampard, then on his first tour of duty as Chelsea head coach. Mount was one of those.

There is little that gives the staff of an academy more pleasure than seeing one of their own break through. That is why they are so furious that a generation of break-throughs may now be about to depart.

And of course, it is a downward spiral that feeds itself. When you are more than a month away from the end of the season and it is so widely known that a number of players are on the way out, then motivation dips and squeezing good performances from them becomes even harder.

Lampard acknowledged that himself. "It's hard to compete at this level," he said, "when some players are in that middle ground." That is one of the many problems he inherited.

The next one is the transfer market, which will not work in Chelsea's favour. Everyone knows that Chelsea need to sell; that is going to drive value down rather than up. But, that is just another fate that the executives have brought upon themselves.

We don't know exactly who will be going but we do know that the departures are numerous. And we know that Mount is in the front of the shop window. Of all the acts of self-harm that Boehly et al have performed in their short tenure, this feels like the worst.

They have fans who have been embarrassed by their club, who are mystified by the direction of travel, asking themselves how a group of owners who have apparently done a lot of smart things in the world of business can have been so half-witted in the business of football.

Klopp's warning to rivals as Liverpool finish with thriller

Southampton	Liverpool
4	4
Ward-Prowse 19 Sulemana 28, 47 Armstrong 64	Jota 10, 73 Firmino 14 Gakpo 72

RATINGS

Southampton (4-4-2): A McCarthy 6 — J Bree 6, Lyanco 7, J Bednarek 7, K Walker-Peters 7 — T Walcott (T Livramento 76min) 7, J Ward-Prowse 7 (S Amo-Ameyaw 86), R Lavia 6 (A Armstrong 62, 7), M Elyounoussi 6 (S Armstrong 62,6) — C Alcaraz 8, K Sulemana 8 (D Ballard 86, 6).
Liverpool (4-3-3): C Kelleher 5 — T Alexander-Arnold 7, J Matip 6, J Gomez 6, K Tsimikas 5 (H Elliott 57, 7) — J Milner 6, Fabinho 7 (J Henderson 57, 5), C Jones 6 (C Gakpo 57, 7) — M Salah 6, R Firmino 7 (L Diaz 57, 6), D Jota 8.
Booked Elliott, Tsimikas.
Referee D England. **Attendance** 31,129.

FANS' VIEW OF THE SEASON

Mark Carter Saints Disabled Supporters' Association
We massively underachieved. We recruited too many youngsters and didn't have enough experience **5/10**

Mohamed Jogi Liverpool season-ticket holder
We have been inconsistent. Our highlight was the 7-0 win over Man Utd — it could have been ten **6/10**

TOM PRENTKI

Jürgen Klopp declared himself "very glad" that the season has ended and warned the rest of the Premier League that Liverpool will be back as contenders next year.

"Thank god for the last 11 games where we didn't lose. That gave us a real boost and perspective," he said. "We played a bad season and came fifth. Imagine if we are our normal selves, which we will be next season. We will be a contender again."

Klopp had defiantly said a place in the Europa League was "absolutely fine", though this is his only full season in charge of Liverpool in which they have failed to qualify the Champions League.

He said: "We are really not happy. For a club like us it is massive for us not to qualify for the Champions League."

Klopp made seven changes for this dead rubber, with a final starting appearance for Roberto Firmino who was serenaded throughout by the away end. The outgoing James Milner also started in midfield.

This also was the end for Rubén Sellés, the Southampton manager, but the atmosphere was not sour after a such a dismal season at St Mary's which yielded only two home wins in the league.

"I'm very proud that on the final day we could put in a performance like that and have the fans with us," Sellés said.

"They have been good for us during the entire season — we didn't give them that much. It was very important to get a good feeling."

Strange things can happen on the final day. As Southampton attempted to play out from the back, Roméo Lavia gifted the ball to Diogo Jota, who stroked it into the open goal with Alex McCarthy stranded.

Four minutes later Liverpool were two up and of course it was Firmino, collecting a pass from Fabinho, who had been found brilliantly by Trent Alexander-Arnold. The Brazilian feigned to shoot, sitting Lyanco and Jan Bednarek on the floor, before firing low into the corner.

The flurry of goals continued as James Ward-Prowse found a quick response for the home side, sweeping the ball low into the corner to finish off a fine team move created by the ebullient Carlos Alcaraz.

Southampton were level nine minutes later when their record signing, Kamaldeen Sulemana slid the ball underneath Caoimhin Kelleher, who should have stopped it, to score his first goal for the club. Lavia and Theo Walcott, the latter of whom has confirmed his exit from the club, were instrumental in the build-up.

The turnaround was complete when Sulemana ran from his own half, skipped past two challenges and curled the ball into the far corner. The man signed for £22 million in January, and whose maximum speed topped even Kylian Mbappé's at the World Cup, may prove a real asset in the second tier if Southampton keep hold of him.

Southampton have struggled to score all season but they couldn't stop on the final day. Adam Armstrong struck with almost his first touch after a calamitous loss of possession from Jordan Henderson.

The chaos continued and back came Liverpool with two goals in a minute. Harvey Elliott teed up Alexander-Arnold, whose volleyed pass was touched in by Cody Gakpo. From the next attack, Mohamed Salah fed Jota and he smashed his second into the top-right corner to make it 4-4.

ANDREW MATTHEWS/PA



Sulemana scored his first goal of the season for relegated Southampton

‘We’ll do everything to stop

Man Utd	Fulham
2	1
Sancho 39 Fernandes 55	Tete 19

RATINGS
Man United (4-2-3-1): D De Gea 7 — D Dalot 6, H Maguire 6, V Lindelof 7, T Malacia 6 — Casemiro 7 (S McTominay 67min, 5), Fred 7 (C Eriksen 67, 6) — J Sancho 7, B Fernandes 8 (F Pellistri 83), A Garnacho 7 (A Martial 67, 5) —M Rashford 7 (W Weghorst 77). **Booked** McTominay.
Fulham (4-2-3-1): B Leno 7 — K Tete 7, T Adarabioyo 6, I Diop 5, A Robinson 5 — S Lukic 5 (H Reed 66, 5), J Palhinha 5 — H Wilson 7 (M Solomon 66, 5), T Cairney 7 (D James 80), Willian 7 — A Mitrovic 5 (C Vinicius 80). **Booked** Palhinha, Mitrovic.
Referee R Jones. **Attendance** 73,465.

FANS’ VIEW OF THE SEASON

Cameron Winstanley **Man Utd fan**
It has been a good campaign. Finishing in the top four is a great start for Ten Hag, and winning the Carabao Cup is a huge success 8/10

Drew Heatley **Fulham fan**
It has definitely exceeded everyone’s expectations. We’re a pragmatic bunch and would’ve bitten your arm off for 17th on goal difference 8/10

IAN WHITTELL

The season concluded with a fixture against a London club as it did last season, but there the similarities end between Manchester United in 2022 and this present vintage under Erik ten Hag.

Twelve months and one week ago, the Dutchman was in attendance as his soon-to-be employers lost at Crystal Palace, the end of a season in which, the history books may one day show, United had hit rock bottom in the post-Sir Alex Ferguson era.

Yesterday, thanks to goals from Jadon Sancho and Bruno Fernandes and the rare sight of a David de Gea penalty save, Ten Hag’s first campaign in English football ended in victory but, more significantly, the air of despondency about the club’s direction of travel has been completely eradicated under his leadership. But the occasion was not one Ten Hag was going to let pass in terms of providing his owners — whomever they may prove to be — a reminder of the investment still needed if they are to progress next season.

“The club knows if you want to play top four, compete for trophies in this tough league, then you have to invest otherwise you don’t have a chance because other clubs will do,” the 53-year-old said. “We’ve seen it in the winter, all the clubs around us made huge investments, we didn’t, but still we made it, so I’m proud of my team.”

Still, while there was a laissez-faire attitude to proceedings, this was also a last workout before Saturday’s FA Cup final. With only five of yesterday’s starters guaranteed a start at Wembley, it offered an audition for some ahead of what may be the most important Manchester derby since City relegated United in 1974.

That was certainly the mood music post-match as United players and their families took part in the now-ubiquitous “lap of appreciation”.

“There is still one game to go,” Ten Hag told supporters. “And I’m sure that these players will give everything to beat Manchester City next week…I’m sure we have a really good chance of bringing the cup back to Old Trafford.”

The roar that greeted that declaration eclipsed anything from the match itself and certainly summed up the huge mood swing presided over by Ten Hag, at the end of a season in which his team amassed the second-highest points total since Ferguson’s retirement.

“I think you always have a chance in football,” Ten Hag said. “And history shows we beat them in January. Man United the last couple of years beat City many times.

“So these players know when they play at their levels they can compete and it’s obvious: we play against the best team, but there is a chance and we have to go for the chance and give everything. We can’t find excuses for ourselves after the game. I’m sure we will play a good game on Saturday.”





The Australia cricketers Nathan Lyon and Mitchell Marsh, inset, watch on as De Gea pulls off his first penalty

The feel-good factor had started even before kick-off, when Ten Hag revealed that Antony and Luke Shaw appear to be winning their fitness races for Wembley after they both sustained injuries as United secured Champions League football by beating Chelsea on Thursday.

That final loomed over this final league fixture. Ten Hag’s team selection offered Fred and the 18-year-old winger Alejandro Garnacho late chances to earn a place in the United XI as they attempt to stop City’s Treble bid.

It was Fred who settled the game with a magnificent defence-splitting pass on 55 minutes that allowed Fernandes to chase through and beat Bernd Leno from a dozen yards.

Garnacho had played his part in an enterprising first half from United, clipping a shot against the crossbar from a wide angle just before Sancho equalised for the hosts on 39 minutes.

Fernandes fed Fred, who dribbled into the area before appearing to be

Xhaka saves best for last as he waves farewell in style

Arsenal	Wolves
5	0
Xhaka 11, 14 Saka 27, Jesus 58 Kiwior 78	

RATINGS
Arsenal (4-3-3) A Ramsdale 6 — T Partey 6, B White 7, Gabriel 7, J Kiwior 7 (K Tierney 80min) — M Odegaard 7 (E Smith Rowe 75), Jorginho 7, G Xhaka 8 (F Vieira 75) — B Saka 7 (R Nelson 60, 6), G Jesus 7, L Trossard 7 (E Nketiah 80).
Wolves (4-4-2) Jose Sa 5 — Nelson Semedo 5, N Collins 5, M Kilman 5 (T Gomes 68, 5), H Bueno 4 (Aït-Nouri 46) — A Traoré 5, M Lemina 5, J Gomes 5 (J Hodge 85), M Nunes 4 (R Neves 46, 6) — Hwang Hee-chan 6 (B Traoré 67), R Jiménez 5.
Referee A Marriner.

FANS’ VIEW OF THE SEASON

Tim Payton **Arsenal Supporters’ Trust**
Surpassed all our expectations. Our best season in a generation 9/10

Chris Cox **Wolves fan**
Julen Lopetegui has transformed us. Before the World Cup 1/10; after 9/10

GARY JACOB

Granit Xhaka was serenaded in the sunshine and Arsenal went out on a high with more reasons to mull over what might have been. With the pressure off and Wolverhampton Wanderers going through the motions, they played some of their most sparkling football since the title slipped through their grasp.

For Arsenal, it has been a season of redemption and connection — between players, the club and supporters — and no one has typified that more than Xhaka, who waved farewell with two goals. The midfielder, 30, is held in high regard inside the club and is a vocal figure who will be missed when, as is expected, he moves to Bayer Leverkusen for £13 million, a snip by today’s prices. His expected replacement, Declan Rice, will cost closer to £90 million.

Xhaka clapped every corner of the ground when he was taken off to chants from supporters demanding he stays. At his nadir, he exited the same pitch mouthing an expletive and cupping his ear in response to them booing him against Crystal Palace in 2019. His failure to apologise cost him the armband and Mikel Arteta, who took charge two months later, spoke about the incident being a salutary lesson for the club in learning how to better understand and connect with players and their emotions.

“He has had an incredible season — one year back I told him, ‘There’s a question mark on you, you have to deliver more,’” Arteta said. “He went back and I think he started to train the next day, lost four kilos.”

Xhaka celebrated his second goal by running over to hug Mohamed Elneny, the only player in the squad when he joined in 2016, and then miskicked from close range when trying to complete a hat-trick in little more than half an hour. Bukayo Saka, Gabriel Jesus and Jakub Kiwior completed the rout. With a more attacking role this season, Xhaka

FOND FAREWELL?



became crucial to the way that Arsenal play and enjoyed his best campaign, scoring nine and claiming seven assists. That compares with one goal and two assists in each of the past three seasons. If Rice joins and plays in the same role, he would have to improve his return, as Arteta wants to add goals from midfield next season, which is one reason for moves for Ilkay Gundogan and Mason Mount. Gundogan is also a free agent, and Arteta is shopping for value and experience to add deeper quality to a squad he hardly rotated, ran out of steam, and will have the additional demands of the Champions League. He thinks there is more to come from a young squad and wants to be careful not to change too much. “We don’t want to lose the cohesion and understanding that exists,” he said.

Arteta grabbed the microphone at the end and thanked everyone for their patience. He has spoken about exceeding expectations and the harder task of now having to manage them. Arsenal ended with the same number of victories, 26, and six points fewer than the Invincibles in 2003-04. There will be even more regrets that they could not take the title to the wire after Manchester City dropped five points in the final two matches.

Treble for City'

PHIL NOBLE/REUTERS



5
This was only the fifth Premier League penalty saved by De Gea out of 39 faced, and his first in the league since 2021

save at Old Trafford for nearly nine years during United's victory against Fulham that secured a third-place finish

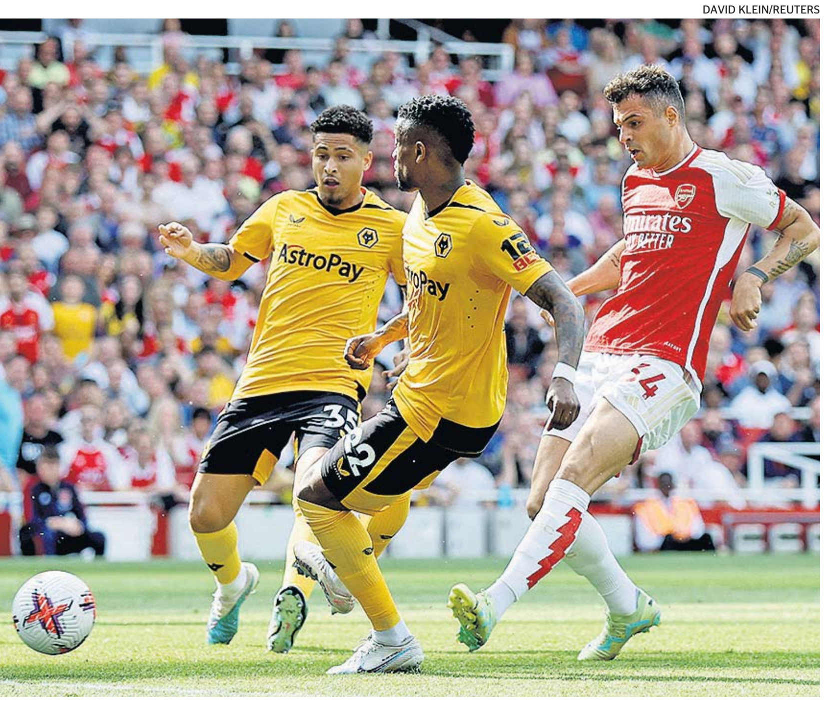
tripped. The referee, Robert Jones, had no decision to make, however, as the ball broke for Sancho to convert into an open net.

But United had been forced to work for the win, not least after they conceded the game's opening goal after 18 minutes when Kenny Tete was left unmarked — Marcus Rashford, making his first start in three matches, the closest non-attendee — to head in Willian's near-post corner.

The situation looked even more precarious just six minutes later when Casemiro's momentum forced him to run into Tom Cairney, presenting Jones with his easiest penalty decision of the season. But Aleksandar Mitrovic's effort was kept out superbly by De Gea, diving low to the foot of his left-hand post as the Spaniard — hardly renowned for his penalty record — made his first save from a spot kick at Old Trafford in nearly nine years.

"It shows you can progress, it was a great save, it's a step up in his performance," Ten Hag said. "It was a great save in the right moment of the game. After the save of David was the turning point, we woke up, a very good wake-up from David."

DAVID KLEIN/REUTERS



Xhaka, who is expected to head to Bayer Leverkusen next season, scores his second goal in the rout of Wolves, as Arsenal finished their campaign on a high

"We didn't expect to finish where we are," he said. "It has been an emotional year and a special season."

This was only a fourth clean sheet in the league at home, where they have conceded 25 times, more than every season since 1983-84.

To win the title, Arteta needed his best players available at the end of the season and of all the injuries, the one suffered by the centre back William Saliba hurt the most. Gabriel was shaky and the defensive mistakes from the back-ups highlighted an area that they want to strengthen.

Jesus powered in a header for his 11th goal of an injury-hit season, but there have been questions about his finishing. His cross was headed in by Xhaka, who got his second when he pounced on a mistake from Max Kilman. Saka curled in the third.

Wolves made six changes and were abject. Julen Lopetegui led the team from bottom on Christmas Day to 13th, but his future is unclear.

"Nothing has changed between me and the club," he said.

"The way we have lost, I am not happy. It's a pity, because I don't want to forget how fantastic this team has been."

Fringe players fail to impress for Guardiola

Brentford	Man City
1	0
Pinnock 85	

RATINGS

Brentford (4-3-3): D Raya 7 — A Hickey 7 (J Da Silva 70min, 6), E Pinnock 8, B Mee 7, R Henry 7 — F Onyeka 6 (S Baptiste 81), V Janelt 6, M Damsgaard 6 (K Schade 70, 7) — B Mbeumo 8 (S Ghoddos 89), Y Wissa 6 (M Roerslev 89), M Jorgensen 6. **Booked** Damsgaard, Wissa, Janelt.

Manchester City (4-2-3-1): Ederson 6 — K Walker 5, N Aké 7 (S Charles 63, 6), A Laporte 7, S Gómez 5 — R Lewis 7, K Phillips 6 — R Mahrez 6, C Palmer 6, P Foden 7 — J Álvarez 6.

Referee J Brooks. **Attendance:** 17,120

FANS' VIEW OF THE SEASON

Stuart Hatcher Bees United
Surpassed fan expectations once again, flirted with Europe, and are fast on the way to becoming an "average Premier League team" **9/10**

Mike Young Manchester City Official Supporters Club
City are a fantastically well-run club from top to bottom, on and off the pitch. **10/10**

PAUL HIRST

"Can we play you every week?" was the chant that echoed around the Gtech Community Stadium after Brentford's deserved victory over Manchester City.

It was a tongue-in-cheek song, of course. Nobody wants to play Manchester City when they are at their free-flowing best. This inferior version of Pep Guardiola's side this season are beatable, however, as Brentford discovered when Ethan Pinnock lashed the ball past Ederson on the same day that he signed a new four-year contract.

Guardiola said last Friday that he expected his fringe players to be knocking on his door, asking him to pick them in the upcoming FA Cup and Champions League finals. Based on this display, few of them have a chance of breaking into the starting XI for the matches against Manchester United and Inter Milan.

Aside from a busy display from Phil Foden and the return of Nathan Aké from injury, there were few positives that City could take. Guardiola was not too hard on his team though, which is understandable given that this was their 59th match of the season and that they were crowned Premier League champions a week ago.

Guardiola was unable to bring on Kevin De Bruyne, Jack Grealish, Manuel Akanji or Rúben Dias because they had been left in Manchester because of injury or fatigue. "Rúben didn't train for ten days and Jack Grealish neither," he said.

"After the Brighton game [last Wednesday] Kevin felt the same [niggles] he had a few weeks ago. It's not a big issue. I think they will be ready [for the FA Cup final]." Guardiola instead chose to praise Brentford. "It was hard to face them because they are masters in how quick and aggressive they play and their set pieces," he said.

Brentford's victory was not enough to bring them European football, but they can take pride from the fact that they are the only team to do the double over Guardiola's side this season. City were on a 25-match unbeaten run before yesterday.

It looked like being an afternoon of frustration for Thomas Frank, who was booked by the referee, John Brooks, for yelling at the fourth official after Brentford had been denied a penalty after a handball by Rico Lewis.

He ended the afternoon soaking up the adulation from the Brentford supporters after a lap of honour.

"To do the double over Manchester City means something for us, and the fans," Frank said. "They are the best offensive team in the world."

Early on, Julián Álvarez, starting ahead of the unused substitute Erling Haaland, and created space for Cole Palmer to move into after he had latched on to Aké's pass, but David Raya was equal to his effort.

Raya, urged to stay by the fans amid interest from Tottenham Hotspur, created the next chance as Brentford started to take control of the game. He fired a long ball down field for Frank Onyeka. The Nigerian, running shoulder to shoulder with Aymeric Laporte, went down and pleaded for a penalty but Brooks was not interested.

Brentford tested City again, this time through a Pinnock long throw, which dropped at Ben Mee's feet, but Ederson denied the centre back.

Guardiola, crouched at the edge of his technical area, looked worried as Pinnock launched another long throw into the area, but Vitaly Janelt was swamped by a sea of blue shirts.

There was more urgency about City's play at the start of the second half. Foden buzzed around the midfield and carved out an opening for Cole Palmer with a delicate chip but he overhit an attempted lob.

With 20 minutes to go, Brentford started peppering the City box. Mee's shot struck Lewis's arm as the defender tried to cushion his fall by putting his left hand down on the turf. The referee waved play on. Frank was still apoplectic on the touchline and was booked.

Kyle Walker was lucky to avoid a booking for an unnecessary push on Rico Henry. Shea Charles, the 19-year-old Northern Ireland international, made his debut when he came on for Aké.

When City had the ball, there was little urgency to their play. Guardiola stood with his hands on his hips at the edge of his technical area. He had every reason to be worried. When City failed to clear Kevin Schade's deep cross Bryan Mbeumo nodded the ball across to Pinnock and he drove the ball past Ederson.



Pinnock marked the signing of his new contract with the winning goal

A ‘magical fairytale’ 31 years in the making


STEPHANIE MEEK /CAMERASPORT/GETTY IMAGES

Mpanzu leads the wild celebrations with his team-mates, who will play at the Premier League’s smallest ground next season

Coventry City Hamer 66	**1**
Luton Town Clark 23	**1**

aet; Luton won 6-5 on penalties

RATINGS

Coventry City (3-4-3): B Wilson 6 — L McNally 6, McFadzean 5, C Doyle 7 (J Panzo 115) — B Norton-Cuffy 7 (F Dabo 90), L Kelly 6, Sheaf 7, J Bidwell 6 — G Hamer 7 (K Palmer 80; J Eccles 102), V Gyokeres 7, J Allen 5 (M Godden 45, 7).
Booked McAnally.
Luton Town (3-5-2): E Horvath 6 — G Osho 6 (D Potts 112min), T Lockyer (R Burke 12, 7), A Bell 6 — C Drameh 6, J Clark 7, M Nakamba 7, P Mpanzu 7 (L Berry 99), A Doughty 7 (F Onyedinma 85) — E Adebayo 6 (J Taylor 105), C Morris 6.
Booked Clark.
Referee M Oliver. **Attendance** 85,711.

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFF FINAL
TOM ALLNUTT

“Here I am, a Premier League player,” Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu said — and what a journey it has been. From the fifth tier to the first, 29-year-old midfielder Mpanzu will be the only footballer to climb from non-League to the Premier League with the same club, and he has done it with Luton Town.

Luton did it the hard way, relegated from the top tier in 1992, before the Premier League even existed, before Mpanzu was even born. From there, they kept sinking, hit by three consecutive relegations, three administrations and a 30-point penalty before spending five years outside the Football League. This was not decline, it was decimation.

Back they came. Mpanzu, a trainee at West Ham United, was there when they were losing in the Conference to Braintree and Halifax Town. He was there making his debut in front of 621 people away to Staines Town. He was there training on a public field, where people would walk through the middle of sessions with their dogs.

Back they came, all the way to the Championship and then to the final of the play-offs. For all its fairytale elements, none of this was a fluke. Luton finished sixth last year, missing out in the semi-finals, and this season third, ten points above Coventry City — their opponents on Saturday — in fifth. Luton deserve promotion.

Still, they did it the hard way, winning 6-5 on penalties, a nip-and-tuck shoot-out finding an ending only when Coventry’s Fankaty Dabo fired over, turning one half of Wembley into a sea of flailing orange arms and limbs. “We’ve been practising for two weeks,” Ethan Horvath, the Luton goalkeeper, said. “I had no doubt we were going to win it.”

Carlton Morris, Luton’s top scorer, was less sure. “When it went to penalties I thought, ‘We’re in trouble,’ ” he said. “Because in practice we were rubbish. I said in the huddle, ‘It’s time to step up.’ ”

As the final kick flew high, Luton’s players sprawled across the pitch, stories in every corner. On his knees, with his fingers pointing to the sky, was the forward Elijah Adebayo, Luton’s man of the match, who six years ago was playing for Slough Town in the Southern Premier Division, the seventh tier. Throwing fist pumps at the crowd was Jordan Clark, the scorer of Luton’s opener and who, five years ago, was playing for Accrington Stanley in League Two, against Luton and Coventry.

Hugging Mpanzo was Rob Edwards, Luton’s manager. A year ago, he was saying farewell to Forest Green Rovers after winning promotion to League One to take charge of Watford, Luton’s fiercest rivals. Edwards lasted only four months and in November landed at Kenilworth Road.


Lockyer watched Luton’s triumph from his hospital bed after collapsing

Mpanzu was asked how they would celebrate on Saturday night. “Tonight?” he grinned. “Celebrations Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. We’re going to enjoy this one.”

Luton’s players held up the shirt of their captain, Tom Lockyer, who had collapsed on the pitch, carried off on a stretcher in the first half. As the team revelled at Wembley, Lockyer’s father, Steve, posted a photo of Lockyer celebrating from his hospital bed, surrounded by friends and family. “I am feeling very much myself, helped by the way the lads left it all out on the pitch,” wrote Lockyer, who was kept in overnight as a precaution.

“Locks was still here in spirit,” Morris said. “It’s all for him.”

Morris was Luton’s record signing last summer, when he arrived from Barnsley for £1.3 million. He repaid the club’s faith with 20 goals, including four in their last five games. “It’s magical, it’s a fairytale,” he said. “It should be a documentary, I’d watch it all the way through.”

How will Luton fare in the Premier League? Against Kevin De Bruyne, Mohamed Salah and Erling Haaland? The club’s annual wage bill for the whole squad is just shy of £7 million, less than half what Haaland earns on his own. Arsenal, Chelsea and Manchester United fans will walk through the old Oak Entrance, cut into a row of Victorian terrace houses, with the steps behind bridging the residents’ gardens.

Kenilworth Road, with its 10,356 seats, will be the smallest stadium in Premier League history. There are plans to build a new 23,000-capacity home at Power Court in Luton’s town centre, which should be accelerated by the other prize of promotion, estimated to be worth at least £170 million. More immediately, Luton have to comply with Premier League regulations, which means upgrading seats, floodlights and cameras, and rebuilding the Bobbers Stand, a job that will cost about £10 million and now needs completing in less than three months.

Bookmakers already have Luton as odds-on favourites to go down next year. “If you look at us as a team, we’re connected,” Reece Burke, the defender, said. “Anything is possible, we’ll fancy our chances.”

Mark Robins, the Coventry manager, had called it a “game for the romantics”, and his side are on a revival run too, after two decades of reckless ownership, financial turmoil, borrowed grounds, points penalties and relegations. After Luton, they can believe next year could be their year.

ONES TO WATCH IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE

Marvelous Nakamba
Signed on loan from Aston Villa in January. Luton will be eager to make Nakamba’s stay permanent after his excellent contribution to their promotion push. The midfielder has brought a calmness in possession while his ability to tackle and intercept could be invaluable in the Premier League.

Carlton Morris
Morris is the first Luton player to score 20 goals in the second tier since 1982 and the 27-year-old will be desperate for a crack at the Premier League after coming through at Norwich City, only to be sent out for eight spells on loan.

Rob Edwards
Edwards was sacked by Watford in September after overseeing three wins from 11 games in charge but the 40-year-old is a highly rated young coach who helped Forest Green to win League Two last year. Renowned for his front-foot, aggressive style of play, Edwards has admitted that he will have to tweak his tactics for the Premier League.

HOW STADIUM COMPARES

Luton’s current capacity

Kenilworth Road	10,356

Smallest capacities in Premier League era

Vitality Stadium, Bournemouth	11,307
Boundary Park, Oldham	13,512
The Dell, Southampton	15,200
County Ground, Swindon	15,728
Bloomfield Road, Blackpool	16,220

‘I sobbed at Wembley as I wondered if Luton would survive’

FAYE CARRUTHERS


TalkSPORT reporter and Luton Town fan

Where do I even start? Maybe writing it down might make it feel real.

Luton Town are in the Premier League!

No, still not real.

I choke up thinking of the magnitude of what my club has achieved. I feel like a toddler — the range of emotions are vast and visceral.

On Saturday, I took my straw boater from 2009’s Johnstone’s Paint Trophy win to Wembley and passed the baton of luck on to my nephew. He was born that year, and it was also the season we were handed an unprecedented 30-point deduction and relegated out of the Football League. I stood at Wembley 14 years ago sobbing, wondering whether my club would even exist in a few weeks’ time.

It wasn’t the first time I’d thought that. As an 18-year-old student, I went to my first match on my own, reporting for my university radio station on a flip-down Motorola phone. We were playing Manchester City in the old Second Division. Gary Doherty’s header earned us a point and a new fan. Relegation and a poor season didn’t deter me. I went whenever I could, often on my own, otherwise with my oldest friend, or my uncle and cousins.

The 2001-02 season was a blast, finishing runners-up in the Third Division under the stewardship of Joe Kinnear and Mick Harford. I went travelling the next year, keeping on top of results from dodgy internet cafes in Australia. But it wasn’t results that became the focus. From the other side of the world, I felt helpless as I read of sackings, a touted name change, a merger and a new stadium with a Formula One circuit attached. It was the type of nightmare that makes you wake up in a cold sweat.

All I could do from a hostel in Sydney was add my name to a petition — but I was desperate to jump on a plane and join the protest march against the new (thankfully temporary) owner, whose name is like Voldemort to me. My club was a step away from Avada Kedavra.

On my return, the ship had been briefly steadied and we ran away with the League One title and enjoyed some fun cup trips. And then there was that drop again, the stomach lurch as we fell down the leagues.

I actually loved those non-League seasons with trips to new grounds. But it was time to move on and what’s happened since John Still got us promoted in 2014 has been nothing short of remarkable.

There’s been a lot of talk about Kenilworth Road. She’s magical. A throwback to “proper football” – I’m delighted she’s the focus of attention after standing proud for 118 years. It will be a fitting end to her existence to host top-flight football again.

Simpson breaks Wembley jinx as Carlisle go up

Carlisle United Patrick 84	**1**
Stockport County Mellish og (34)	**1**

aet; Carlisle won 5-4 on penalties

RATINGS
Carlisle United (3-5-2): T Holy — C Whelan, P Huntington, J Mellish — J Senior, A McCalmont (O Patrick 61min), C Guy (T Charters 78), O Moxon, J Armer (K Dennis 82) — J-K Gordon (J Gibson 78), J Garner (R Edmondson 61). **Booked** Mellish, Charters.
Stockport County (3-5-2): B Hinchliffe — A Wright (W Collar 69min), F Horsfall, C Hussey — K Knoyle, C Camps (N Byrne 85), R Croasdale, A Sarcevic (C Evans 114), R Rydel — P Madden (M Hippolyte 69), I Olaofe (J Stretton 82). **Booked** Collar.
Referee T Nield. **Attendance** 34,004.

LEAGUE TWO PLAY-OFF FINAL
IVAN SPECK

Carlisle United demonstrated an iron will to overcome Stockport County to win promotion to League One and underscore manager Paul Simpson's hero status at his hometown club.

For the second successive day, a play-off final penalty shoot-out took place after a 1-1 draw, and it was Stockport's Ryan Rydel who missed the only spot kick when his weak effort was saved by Tomas Holy, the Carlisle goalkeeper.

For Simpson, who also guided England to the Under-20 World Cup in 2017, it was his third promotion with Carlisle, having led the club from the National League to League One in successive seasons in 2005 and 2006. He returned to Brunton Park last season to save the club from relegation.

Simpson said: "When I came back, I didn't even know if I wanted to be a football manager any more, but I'm loving my life here. I'll look at League One when I sober up after tonight.

"I've had five other experiences of Wembley [as a player, coach and manager] and lost all five of them. I knew that I couldn't keep losing and that my turn would come. I'm a big believer in if you try to do things properly, you will get your day.

"The players have probably over-achieved this season from what we expected. Today was about desire, digging in and earning the right to take the game as far as we did."

Carlisle had appeared to be sliding to defeat before a stunning 90-second period deep into the second half.

They had gone behind to a freak goal 11 minutes before half-time. The Stockport striker, Isaac Olaofe, was simply trying to send the ball over from the right when his cross caught the outstretched shin of Jon Mellish and looped up over Holy's dive before dropping into the far corner.

A second half characterised by tiring bodies on the sapping Wembley turf looked as if it would also favour Stockport, but Akil Wright's wasteful header in the 57th minute was costly.

As the game entered the final seven minutes, the refusal of the referee, Tom Nield, to award a penalty when Kyle Knoyle blocked a goalbound Mellish shot two yards off his own line with his hand beggared belief.

Spurred on by injustice and fury, Carlisle kept pressing. The ball found its way to Joel Senior, whose low ball across the area was driven home by the substitute Omari Patrick.

Both goalkeepers pulled off superb saves in extra time. First, the Stockport substitute Jack Stretton sent in a curling shot that was destined for the top corner until Holy put out his right hand to tip it over.

Not to be outdone, Stockport's Ben Hinchliffe clawed away a Kristian Dennis header when it was almost over the line.

Going against tradition, Stockport's staff and players disappeared down the tunnel rather than watch Carlisle lift the trophy.

The Stockport manager, Dave Challinor, defended his club, saying: "Everyone's different. Congratulating Carlisle was the first thing we did. It's not a nice feeling, but you deal with things in different ways."

PAUL HARDING/GETTY IMAGES



It was Carlisle's turn to win a shoot-out at Wembley as the club secured its third promotion under manager Paul Simpson

Williams loving ride on Barnsley rollercoaster

LEAGUE ONE PLAY-OFF FINAL
JASON MELLOR

Jordan Williams has packed an awful lot into a short time at Barnsley. In summary, his five seasons at Oakwell read: League One promotion; last day salvation; Championship play-off semi-final; relegation; Wembley play-off final. Describing it as a rollercoaster ride really doesn't do it justice.

"It's never dull," admitted the 23-year-old, who swapped West Yorkshire for South when leaving his hometown club Huddersfield Town in 2018. He added: "There have been very few times when I've come into a game here and there's been nothing to play for. Going to Wembley's probably the only thing I've not done since I came to the club so hopefully we can top that off with a win."

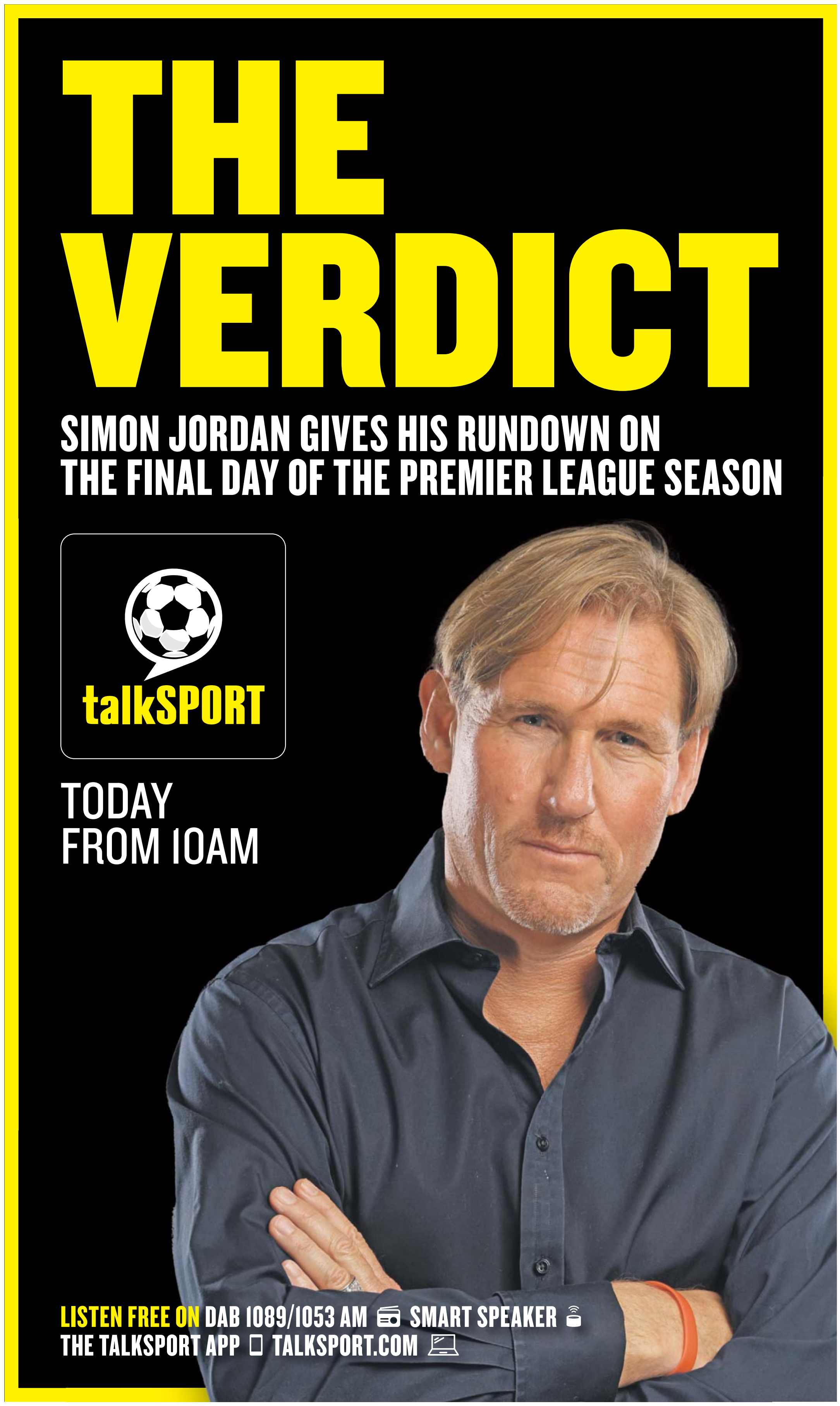
Today's appearance in the League One play-off final against Sheffield Wednesday will leave the wingback one shy of 150 for Barnsley at the end of an unusually prolific campaign — all five of his career league goals have arrived in the past nine months.

"I think I'm the only player who has appeared this year who was here the last time we won promotion," he said. "You could probably write a decent book about what's happened in these five years."

Barnsley have beaten Wednesday twice this season by an aggregate of 6-2, and have lost only one of the past five games between the two rivals.

Williams, who has been to Wembley twice as a fan but never played there before, added: "There's a lot of expectation on them to win the game, but there's pressure everywhere because both clubs are desperate to play at the next level and both clubs expect to go up."

Barnsley v Sheffield Wednesday
TV Sky Sports Main Event, 3pm



Premier League

	P	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	GD	Pts
▶ 1 Manchester City (C)	38	17	1	1	60	17	11	4	4	34	16	61	89
▶ 2 Arsenal	38	14	3	2	53	25	12	3	4	35	18	45	84
▲ 3 Manchester United	38	15	3	1	36	10	8	3	8	22	33	15	75
▼ 4 Newcastle United	38	11	6	2	36	14	8	8	3	32	19	35	71
▶ 5 Liverpool	38	13	5	1	46	17	6	5	8	29	30	28	67
▶ 6 Brighton & Hove Albion	38	10	4	5	37	21	8	4	7	35	32	19	62
▶ 7 Aston Villa	38	12	2	5	33	21	6	5	8	18	25	5	61
▶ 8 Tottenham Hotspur	38	12	1	6	37	25	6	5	8	33	38	7	60
▶ 9 Brentford	38	10	7	2	35	18	5	7	7	23	28	12	59
▶ 10 Fulham	38	8	5	6	31	29	7	2	10	24	24	2	52
▶ 11 Crystal Palace	38	7	7	5	21	23	4	5	10	19	26	-9	45
▶ 12 Chelsea	38	6	7	6	20	19	5	4	10	18	28	-9	44
▶ 13 Wolverhampton Wanderers	38	9	3	7	19	20	2	5	12	12	38	-27	41
▶ 14 West Ham United	38	8	4	7	26	24	3	3	13	16	31	-13	40
▶ 15 Bournemouth	38	6	4	9	20	28	5	2	12	17	43	-34	39
▶ 16 Nottingham Forest	38	8	6	5	27	24	1	5	13	11	44	-30	38
▶ 17 Everton	38	6	3	10	16	27	2	9	8	18	30	-23	36
▶ 18 Leicester City (R)	38	5	4	10	23	27	4	3	12	28	41	-17	34
▶ 19 Leeds United (R)	38	5	7	7	26	37	2	3	14	22	41	-30	31
▶ 20 Southampton (R)	38	2	5	12	19	37	4	2	13	17	36	-37	25

Sky Bet Championship

	P	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	GD	Pts
1 Burnley (C)	46	16	6	1	49	15	13	8	2	38	20	52	101
2 Sheffield United (P)	46	16	3	4	47	19	12	4	7	26	20	34	91
3 Luton Town (p)	46	10	9	4	31	21	11	8	4	26	18	18	80
4 Middlesbrough	46	13	7	3	46	19	9	2	12	38	37	28	75
5 Coventry City	46	11	7	5	30	24	7	9	7	28	22	12	70
6 Sunderland	46	7	9	7	33	33	11	6	6	35	22	13	69
7 Blackburn Rovers	46	13	4	6	27	19	7	5	11	25	35	-2	69
8 Millwall	46	11	6	6	34	22	8	5	10	23	28	7	68
9 West Bromwich Albion	46	11	7	5	31	20	7	5	11	28	33	6	66
10 Swansea City	46	11	4	8	38	32	7	8	8	30	32	4	66
11 Watford	46	11	6	6	35	23	5	9	9	21	30	3	63
12 Preston North End	46	7	7	9	20	28	10	5	8	25	31	-14	63
13 Norwich City	46	8	5	10	27	27	9	6	8	30	27	3	62
14 Bristol City	46	9	7	7	30	24	6	7	10	25	32	-1	59
15 Hull City	46	9	6	8	24	27	5	10	8	27	34	-10	58
16 Stoke City	46	6	5	12	25	27	8	6	9	30	27	1	53
17 Birmingham City	46	7	6	10	24	24	7	5	11	23	34	-11	53
18 Huddersfield Town	46	9	6	8	26	25	5	5	13	21	37	-15	53
19 Rotherham United	46	9	6	8	37	30	2	11	10	12	30	-11	50
20 Queens Park Rangers	46	6	5	12	21	35	7	6	10	23	36	-27	50
21 Cardiff City	46	6	7	10	20	24	7	3	13	21	34	-17	49
22 *Reading (R)	46	10	8	5	31	24	3	3	17	15	44	-22	44
23 Blackpool (R)	46	6	6	11	28	34	5	5	13	20	38	-24	44
24 †Wigan Athletic (R)	46	5	7	11	17	35	5	8	10	21	30	-27	42

deducted *6pts/†3pts for breaching EFL rules

Sky Bet League One

	P	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	GD	Pts
1 Plymouth Argyle (C)	46	20	1	2	44	16	11	7	5	38	31	35	101
2 Ipswich (P)	46	16	6	1	60	13	12	8	3	41	22	66	98
3 Sheffield Wednesday	46	16	6	1	49	16	12	6	5	32	21	44	96
4 Barnsley	46	16	1	6	45	24	10	7	6	35	23	33	86
5 Bolton Wanderers	46	14	5	4	32	13	9	7	7	30	23	26	81
6 Peterborough United	46	13	4	6	38	25	11	1	11	37	29	21	77
7 Derby County	46	13	6	4	40	20	8	7	8	27	26	21	76
8 Portsmouth	46	9	11	3	34	22	8	8	7	27	28	11	70
9 Wycombe Wanderers	46	11	5	7	32	24	9	4	10	27	27	8	69
10 Charlton Athletic	46	9	7	7	44	31	7	7	9	26	35	4	62
11 Lincoln City	46	7	14	2	22	17	7	6	10	25	30	0	62
12 Shrewsbury Town	46	11	3	9	32	32	6	5	12	20	29	-9	59
13 Fleetwood Town	46	7	8	8	25	25	7	8	8	28	26	2	58
14 Exeter City	46	10	5	8	36	27	5	6	12	28	41	-4	56
15 Burton Albion	46	9	7	7	28	33	6	4	13	29	46	-22	56
16 Cheltenham Town	46	8	8	7	25	27	6	4	13	20	34	-16	54
17 Bristol Rovers	46	6	7	10	27	36	8	4	11	31	37	-15	53
18 Port Vale	46	8	5	10	23	30	5	5	13	25	41	-23	49
19 Oxford United	46	6	5	12	29	31	5	9	9	20	25	-7	47
20 Cambridge United	46	9	4	10	24	26	4	3	16	17	42	-27	46
21 Milton Keynes Dons (R)	46	4	7	12	20	33	7	5	11	24	33	-22	45
22 Morecambe (R)	46	8	8	7	30	31	2	6	15	17	47	-31	44
23 Accrington Stanley (R)	46	6	5	12	27	39	5	6	12	13	38	-37	44
24 Forest Green Rovers (R)	46	5	2	16	15	42	1	7	15	16	47	-58	27

Sky Bet League Two

	P	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	GD	Pts
1 Leyton Orient (C)	46	15	6	2	32	13	11	7	5	29	21	27	91
2 Stevenage (P)	46	17	2	4	40	16	7	11	5	21	23	22	85
3 Northampton Town (P)	46	12	6	5	31	20	11	8	4	31	22	20	83
4 Stockport County	46	11	9	3	32	16	11	4	8	33	21	28	79
5 Carlisle United (p)	46	11	8	4	34	21	9	8	6	32	22	23	76
6 Bradford City	46	9	10	4	33	23	11	6	6	28	20	18	76
7 Salford City	46	10	5	8	28	23	12	4	7	44	31	18	75
8 Mansfield Town	46	9	8	6	37	31	12	4	7	35	24	17	75
9 Barrow	46	12	3	8	29	19	6	5	12	18	34	-6	62
10 Swindon Town	46	9	6	8	31	24	7	7	9	30	31	6	61
11 Grimsby Town	46	7	10	6	24	25	9	3	11	25	31	-7	61
12 Tranmere Rovers	46	10	6	7	27	20	5	7	11	18	28	-3	58
13 Crewe Alexandra	46	11	6	6	32	26	3	10	10	16	34	-12	58
14 Sutton United	46	11	5	7	26	21	4	8	11	20	37	-12	58
15 Newport County	46	6	7	10	27	30	8	8	7	26	26	-3	57
16 Walsall	46	9	9	5	28	19	3	10	10	18	30	-3	55
17 Gillingham	46	11	5	7	21	20	3	8	12	15	29	-13	55
18 Doncaster Rovers	46	11	1	11	27	30	5	6	12	19	35	-19	55
19 Harrogate Town	46	6	10	7	31	32	6	6	11	28	36	-9	52
20 Colchester United	46	6	9	8	25	23	6	4	13	19	28	-7	49
21 AFC Wimbledon	46	7	7	9	26	30	4	8	11	22	30	-12	48
22 Crawley Town	46	9	7	7	31	30	2	6	15	17	41	-23	46
23 Hartlepool United (R)	46	5	10	8	27	36	4	6	13	25	42	-26	43
24 Rochdale (R)	46	5	5	13	29	38	4	6	13	17	32	-24	38



Game in numbers

Bill Edgar on final-day goals, London clubs' rare table alignment and Brighton's travelling hotshots

Goals and fans galore

For the 22nd time in the past 23 seasons there were more goals per game in the Premier League's final round than previously in that campaign (3.3 to 2.84 this time). This season produced the most goals per top-flight game since 1967-68 (2.85) and the highest average attendance ever: it will be about 40,330 when the final figures are registered — the first time over 40,000.

The duration of this season featured the most UK monarchs since 1951-52 (two), the most ever prime minsters (three) and most ever top-flight managers (39, including caretakers).

Five London teams finished in consecutive positions in the table, from Tottenham Hotspur in eighth to Chelsea in 12th — previously there had never been more than three in a row in any division in league history. For the first time since 1992-93 the top four contained three teams – Arsenal, Manchester United and Newcastle United — who were not among the top four in the previous season. It was also the first top-division table in 17 years in which no two teams finished level on points.

Leicester's sudden fall

Leicester City are only the third club to be relegated from the top flight after finishing in the top ten in each of the previous five seasons (the others: Burnley, in 1896-97, and Nottingham Forest, in 1992-93). Leicester's demotion and Coventry City's play-off final defeat leaves next season's EFL Championship with nine Cities — the most appearances of any "extra" name (such as United or Town) in a single division since the league's formation in 1888.

Everton have finished in the bottom eight 20 times since last ending in the relegation places. In Sam Allardyce's past two seasons as a manager he has lost his final game to Leeds United and gone down (with West Bromwich Albion in 2021) and lost his final game with Leeds and gone down (yesterday). Finishing positions in 2003-04 and this season: Everton 17th, Leicester 18th, Leeds 19th.

PORTUGUESE MEN OF WOLVES

Wolves gave 48.1 per cent of their league starts this season to Portuguese players, thus becoming the top-flight team most dominated by one non-English nationality since Swansea City's Welsh-filled team of 1982-83. But Wolves and Swansea lag well behind Sunderland, who, in 1894-95, picked Englishman George Goodchild once and gave the other 329 starting positions to Scots. Wolves, in 1901-02, were also the first team to field only English players throughout a top-division season

Highest proportion of top-flight starts for non-British Isles nations

Wolves, Portuguese, 2022-23
48.1%

Wolves, Portuguese, 2020-21
47.6%

Wolves, Portuguese, 2021-22
41.6%

Newcastle, French, 2013-14
40%

Arsenal, French, 2002-03
38.3%

'Fear of losing drives me more than

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE
MOLLY HUDSON

When Vic Akers, the legendary Arsenal manager, was coming to the end of his tenure in 2008, his assistant, a then relatively untested but highly regarded coach, was asked to stay. Emma Hayes was told that if she remained at the club she would have the chance to take over from Akers and lead the most dominant team in the history of women's football — one that in 2006-07 had won every competition available to them domestically and internationally.

Hayes said no. Her heart was set on a move to America, then the most competitive league in the world. "It's not about winning," she said. "You need the competition to do it and everybody drives each other as a result of that."

A decade and a half later Hayes, now 46, reflected on that decision as she celebrated her fourth successive Women's Super League title with Chelsea, beer in hand, at the Madejski Stadium. A 3-0 victory over Reading had sealed her sixth league trophy, an unparalleled level of dominance in the modern era that left reporters wondering how different this team is from Akers' side, which won 11 league titles.

"I think we've carried the spirit of that team to here," Hayes said. "Why wouldn't I? Vic coached me as a ten-year-old. He's been in my life. He sat with my dad at the FA Cup final last week.

"I know he's Arsenal but he's always been a champion for me. I said to him, 'I'm coming for your record.' He laughed and said, 'You ain't gonna get it'. But I said, 'I am, I'm coming for your record.' I think it's a different time now and he acknowledges that, it is much harder to win."

Mathematically, this is Hayes's greatest WSL-winning team. Saturday's victory set a record of 19 wins in a league season and a new highest points tally of 58 from a possible 66.

Her side have been driven to those heights by a title race that for much of the season had four genuine contenders. Manchester United led the way for 105 days, and Hayes felt her side had been written off by some, having lost their opening match to newly-promoted Liverpool.

It was a rare chance for Hayes to galvanise her squad so used to being heavy favourites for every competition. It was one she relished and she has privately enjoyed the spotlight that has been given to other managers. "As much as people go, 'It's boring, it's Chelsea [that always win],' it isn't that whatsoever. It's a title race that's been toing and froing the entire year and everybody has been driving each other on. That is what the league has needed and long may it continue."

It has been a difficult year personally for Hayes, who missed six games of the season after having an emergency hysterectomy in October in her battle with endometriosis — a condition in which tissue similar to womb lining grows outside the uterus.

Chelsea won every game while she was absent; the assistant manager, Denise Reddy, took control of touchline duties and hands-on training, while Paul Green, Hayes's other assistant, took over media duties. Players were encouraged to take responsibility on and off the pitch too, something Hayes learnt was important during that formative spell in America.

"This has definitely been the hardest year for me and I feel relieved it's over for lots of reasons," Hayes said. "It's a victory for the



Hayes celebrates the title with her son, Harry



Rúben Neves

Highest proportion of starts from one non-English nation
Sunderland, 1894-85

Scottish **99.7%**

Last cases with as high a proportion of starts from one non-English nation as Wolves' Portuguese this season

Swansea, 1982-83 — Welsh **63.6%**

Swansea, 1981-82 — Welsh **57.8%**

Leicester, 1980-81 — Scottish **52.2%**

Wolves' Portuguese starts this season

Player	Starts
José Sa	36
Rúben Neves	33
Nélson Semedo	31
Matheus Nunes	30
João Moutinho	20
Daniel Podence	20
Pedro Neto	13
Toti	10
Gonçalo Guedes	8

Top-flight seasons with only English-born starters

6. West Ham 1927-28 1928-29 1929-30 1963-64 1964-65 1965-66

5. West Brom 1911-12 1912-13 1913-14 1919-20 1920-21

3. Wolves 1901-02 1902-03 1903-04

2. Birmingham 1905-06 1907-08

2. Notts Co 1912-13 1914-15

1. Sheff Utd 1910-11

1. Aston Villa 1919-20

1. QPR 1968-69

1. Southampton* 1982-83

*Chris Nicholl played for Northern Ireland; Reuben Agboola played for Nigeria

NEVILLE WILLIAMS/GETTY IMAGES



Watkins became the first Devon-born player to score 15 top flight goals since Trevor Francis hit 25 for Birmingham City in the 1977-78 season

Ups and downs

Luton Town were the first club to move from first to fourth tier and back again (1960-1965-1974) and are now the first to have done so twice (1992-2001-2023); they are the first to have travelled from top flight to non-League and back since Stoke City in 1922 (Stoke had dropped out when only two divisions existed).

The capacity of Luton's Kenilworth Road ground next season, which will be similar to the present 10,356, will be the smallest in the top flight since the First World War. The Championship club with the lowest average attendance has been promoted in consecutive seasons (Bournemouth last year).

City happy at home

Manchester City are the first top-flight team to score 56 more goals at home than away in one season in all competitions (100 to 44), exceeding Everton's difference of 54 in 1934-35. City's Erling Haaland scored as many top-flight hat-tricks (four) as all other Premier League players combined this season. Since the World Cup 47 per cent of Premier League games have featured at least one Spanish manager.

End to end

Tottenham are the first team since Southampton in 1989-90 to score and concede at least 1.66 goals per game in a top-flight season. Tottenham's Harry Kane moved ahead of Dixie Dean by scoring his 112th top-division away goal – he trails only Jimmy Greaves, who has 122.

United's late habit

This season Manchester United have beaten Fulham in the last game played by top-flight teams before the World Cup, the last match involving top-division sides before the March international break (in the FA Cup) and, yesterday, the joint-last Premier League game before the summer rest.

Draw consolation

In Southampton's final 12 games they either lost (nine times) or recorded draws of at least six goals against a big-six team: 3-3s with Arsenal and Tottenham and 4-4 with Liverpool. Aston Villa's Ollie Watkins became the first Devon-born player to score 15 times in a top-flight season since Trevor Francis hit 25 for Birmingham City in 1977-78.

Brighton & Hove Albion have scored 12 more goals away from home since Bonfire Night than Chelsea have scored anywhere in that period (35 to 23).

will to win'

whole team because my backroom staff have carried me in so many different ways this year, they've been unbelievable, particularly in the first part of the season when I was unwell."

While her absence was handled seamlessly, she is the self-proclaimed "Mother Hen". Those who have worked alongside Hayes describe her as the glue that sticks Chelsea together. She has the ability to be a clown around the training ground one day, and to offer brutally honest feedback to a player the next.

During the victory over Reading, Lauren James, the talented forward, asked: "Why are you always taking me off first?" A few hours later, the pair were singing karaoke. Hayes commands respect while remaining approachable.

Hayes is desperate to win the Champions League, but what else motivates her, given her five-year-old son Harry has changed her priorities in life? "I might have answered that question easier in the past. I don't know if it's motivation. Sometimes it's survival. In order to keep going, you have to survive. Denise Reddy says it's like snorkeling and swimming past the rocks. Sometimes this job feels like you're bobbing, your legs are kicking and you just keep going.

"I don't know if that's a right or wrong thing but it's just what you do because you know everyone is chasing you and you don't want to drown. The fear of losing drives me more than the will to win."

Results

Premier League

Arsenal (3) **5** — **Wolves** (0) **0**
Xhaka 11, 14, Saka 27, Jesus 58, Kiwior 78
60,095

Aston Villa (2) **2** — **Brighton** (1) **1**
Douglas Luiz 8, Watkins 26 — Undav 38

Brentford (0) **1** — **Man City** (0) **0**
Pinnock 85
17,120

Chelsea (1) **1** — **Newcastle** (1) **1**
Trippier 27 (og) — Gordon 9
40,130

Crystal Palace (0) **1** — **Nottm Forest** (1) **1**
Hughes 66 — Awoniyi 31
25,198

Everton (0) **1** — **Bournemouth** (0) **0**
Doucouré 57

Leeds (0) **1** — **Tottenham** (1) **4**
Harrison 67 — Kane 2, 69, Porro 47, Moura 90+5

Leicester (1) **2** — **West Ham** (0) **1**
Barnes 34, Faes 62 — Fornals 79

Man United (1) **2** — **Fulham** (1) **1**
Sancho 39, Fernandes 55 — Tete 19
73,465

Southampton (2) **4** — **Liverpool** (2) **4**
Ward-Prowse 19, Sulemana 28, 47, Armstrong 64 — Jota 10, 73, Firmino 14, Gakpo 72
31,129

Sky Bet play-off finals
Championship

Coventry (0) **1** — **Luton** (1) **1**
Hamer 66 — Clark 23
85,711
(aet; 1-1 after 90min; Luton won 6-5 on pens)

League Two

Carlisle (0) **1** — **Stockport** (1) **1**
Patrick 84 — Mellish 34 (og)
34,004
(aet; 1-1 after 90min; Carlisle won 5-4 on pens)
both at Wembley Stadium

Cinch Scottish Premiership

Celtic (2) **5** — **Aberdeen** (0) **0**
Furuhashi 27, 32, Starfelt 78, Oh 82, 90

DAVID RAWCLIFF/PROPAGANDA



Hearts (1) **1** — **Hibernian** (1) **1**
Oda 8 — Nisbet 31
Sent off: A Cochrane (Hearts) 29

Kilmarnock (1) **3** — **Ross County** (0) **1**
Lyons 36, Armstrong 49 (pen), Vassell 78 — Dhanda 63 (pen)
8,301

Motherwell (1) **3** — **Dundee Utd** (1) **2**
Van Veen 5, Spittal 69, Johnston 82 — McGrath 31 (pen), Fletcher 49
5,971

St Johnstone (1) **2** — **Livingston** (0) **0**
Wright 17, Kane 68 (pen)
4,362

St Mirren (0) **0** — **Rangers** (1) **3**
7,490 — Sakala 26, 48, Colak 77

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Celtic (C)	38	32	3	3	114	34	80	99
Rangers	38	29	5	4	93	37	56	92
Aberdeen	38	18	3	17	56	60	-4	57
Hearts	38	15	9	14	63	57	6	54
Hibernian	38	15	7	16	57	59	-2	52
St Mirren	38	12	10	16	43	61	-18	46
Motherwell	38	14	8	16	53	51	2	50
Livingston	38	13	7	18	36	60	-24	46
St Johnstone	38	12	7	19	41	59	-18	43
Kilmarnock	38	11	7	20	37	62	-25	40
Ross County	38	9	7	22	37	60	-23	34
Dundee Utd (R)	38	8	7	23	40	70	-30	31

Women's Super League Arsenal 0 Aston Villa 2; Brighton 0 Leicester 1; Liverpool 0 Manchester Utd 1; Manchester City 3 Everton 2; Reading 0 Chelsea 3; West Ham 2 Tottenham 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Chelsea (C)	22	19	1	2	66	15	51	58
Man Utd	22	18	2	2	56	12	44	56
Arsenal	22	15	2	5	49	16	33	47
Man City	22	15	2	5	50	25	25	47
Aston Villa	22	11	4	7	47	37	10	37
Everton	22	9	3	10	29	36	-7	30
Liverpool	22	6	5	11	24	39	-15	23
West Ham	22	6	3	13	23	44	-21	21
Tottenham	22	5	3	14	31	47	-16	18
Leicester	22	5	1	16	15	48	-33	16
Brighton	22	4	4	14	26	63	-37	16
Reading (R)	22	3	2	17	23	57	-34	11

French Ligue 1 Angers 2 Troyes 1; Clermont 2 Lorient 0; Lens 3 Ajaccio 0; Lille 2 Nantes 1; Lyon 3 Reims 0; Marseille 1 Brest 2; Montpellier 2 Nice 3; Rennes 2 Monaco 0; Strasbourg 1 Paris Saint-Germain 1; Toulouse 1 Auxerre 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
PSG (C)	37	27	4	6	87	37	50	85
Lens	37	24	9	4	65	28	37	81
Marseille	37	22	7	8	67	39	28	73
Lille	37	19	9	9	64	43	21	66
Rennes	37	20	5	12	67	38	29	65
Monaco	37	19	8	10	69	56	13	65
Lyon	37	18	8	11	64	44	20	62
Clermont	37	16	8	13	42	47	-5	56
Nice	37	14	13	10	45	36	9	55
Lorient	37	14	10	13	50	52	-2	52
Reims	37	12	15	10	44	42	2	51
Montpellier	37	14	5	18	62	61	1	47
Toulouse	37	12	9	16	49	56	-7	45
Brest	37	11	11	15	43	52	-9	44
Strasbourg	37	9	13	15	50	57	-7	40
Auxerre	37	8	11	18	34	60	-26	35
Nantes	37	6	15	16	36	55	-19	33
Troyes (R)	37	4	11	22	44	80	-36	23
Ajaccio (R)	37	6	5	26	22	74	-52	23
Angers (R)	37	4	6	27	33	80	-47	18

Italian Serie A Bologna 2 Napoli 2; Fiorentina 2 Roma 1; Inter Milan 3 Atalanta 2; Juventus 0 AC Milan 1; Lazio 3 Cremonese 2; Monza 0 Lecce 1; Salernitana 3 Udinese 2; Spezia 0 Torino 4; Verona 1 Empoli 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Napoli (C)	37	27	6	4	75	28	47	87
Lazio	37	21	8	8	58	30	28	71
Inter Milan	37	22	3	12	70	42	28	69
AC Milan	37	19	10	8	61	42	19	67
Atalanta	37	18	7	12	61	46	15	61
Roma	37	17	9	11	48	37	11	60
Juventus	37	21	6	10	55	33	22	59
Torino	37	14	11	12	42	40	2	53
Fiorentina	37	14	11	12	50	42	8	53
Monza	37	14	10	13	46	47	-1	52
Bologna	37	13	12	12	50	47	3	51
Udinese	37	11	13	13	47	47	0	46
Sassuolo	37	12	9	16	46	58	-12	45
Empoli	37	10	13	14	37	47	-10	43
Salernitana	37	9	15	13	48	60	-12	42
Lecce	37	8	12	17	31	43	-12	36
Spezia	37	6	13	18	30	60	-30	31
Verona	37	7	10	20	30	56	-26	31
Cremonese (R)	37	4	12	21	34	69	-35	24
Sampdoria (R)	37	3	10	24	24	69	-45	19

German Bundesliga Bochum 3 Bayer Leverkusen 0; Borussia Dortmund 2 Mainz 2; Borussia Mönchengladbach 2 Augsburg 0; Cologne 1 Bayern Munich 2; Eintracht Frankfurt 2 Freiburg 1; RB Leipzig 4 Schalke 2; Stuttgart 1 Hoffenheim 1; Union Berlin 1 Werder Bremen 0; Wolfsburg 1 Hertha Berlin 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
B Munich (C)	34	21	8	5	92	38	54	71
B Dortmund	34	22	5	7	83	44	39	71
RB Leipzig	34	20	6	8	64	41	23	66
Union Berlin	34	18	8	8	51	38	13	62
Freiburg	34	17	8	9	51	44	7	59
B Leverkusen	34	14	8	12	57	49	8	50
E Frankfurt	34	13	11	10	58	52	6	50
Wolfsburg	34	13	10	11	57	48	9	49
Mainz	34	12	10	12	54	55	-1	46
B M'gladbach	34	11	10	13	52	55	-3	43
Cologne	34	10	12	12	49	54	-5	42
Hoffenheim	34	10	6	18	48	57	-9	36
Werder Bremen	34	10	6	18	51	64	-13	36
Bochum	34	10	5	19	40	72	-32	35
Augsburg	34	9	7	18	42	63	-21	34
Stuttgart	34	7	12	15	45	57	-12	33
Schalke (R)	34	7	10	17	35	71	-36	31
Hertha Berlin (R)	34	7	8	19	42	69	-27	29

Spanish La Liga Almería 0 Real Valladolid 0; Athletic Bilbao 0 Elche 1; Atlético Madrid 2 Real Sociedad 1; Barcelona 3 Mallorca 0; Cádiz 1 Celta Vigo 0; Getafe 2 Osasuna 1; Girona 1 Real Betis 2; Rayo Vallecano 2 Villarreal 1; Sevilla 1 Real Madrid 2; Valencia 2 Espanyol 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Barcelona (C)	37	28	4	5	69	18	51	88
Real Madrid	37	24	5	8	74	35	39	77
Atlético Madrid	37	23	7	7	68	31	37	76
Real Sociedad	37	20	8	9	49	34	15	68
Villarreal	37	19	6	12	57	38	19	63
Real Betis	37	17	8	12	45	40	5	59
Osasuna	37	14	8	15	35	41	-6	50
Athletic Bilbao	37	14	8	15	46	42	4	50
Girona	37	13	10	14	57	53	4	49
Rayo Vallecano	37	13	10	14	45	50	-5	49
Sevilla	37	13	10	14	46	52	-6	49
Mallorca	37	13	8	16	34	43	-9	47
Cádiz	37	10	11	16	29	52	-23	41
Getafe	37	10	11	16	34	45	-11	41
Valencia	37	11	8	18	41	44	-3	41
Almería	37	11	7	19	46	62	-16	40
Celta Vigo	37	10	10	17	41	52	-11	40
Real Valladolid	37	11	6	20	33	63	-30	39
Espanyol (R)	37	8	12	17	49	66	-17	36
Elche (R)	37	5	9	23	29	66	-37	24

Fixtures

Today

Sky Bet League One play-off final Barnsley v Sheffield Wednesday (3.0, at Wembley Stadium).

Wednesday

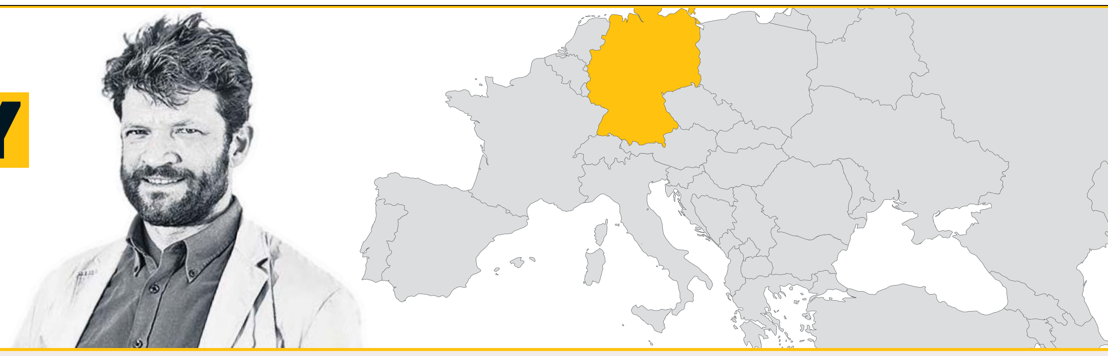
Europa League final Sevilla v Roma (8.0, at Puskas Arena, Budapest).

Saturday

FA Cup final Manchester City v Manchester Utd (3.0, at Wembley Stadium).

Scottish Cup final Celtic v Inverness CT (5.30, at Hampden Park).

IAN HAWKEY



European Football

A title and two sackings – another day in German game's 'Succession'

Up in the corporate seats at Cologne a pushy fan pigeon-holed Hasan "Brazzo" Salihamidzic, the former Bayern player with a lead role in running the club, to ask for a selfie. Salihamidzic obliged with a diplomatic smile. But he'll always look tense in that photo.

The final whistle had just sounded on Bayern's 2-1 win. Down on the pitch, the living Bayern legend Thomas Müller was staring at his mobile phone, holding it so a huddle of team-mates could watch the final seconds of Borussia Dortmund v Mainz, still in play 60 miles away. In Munich, far from any stadium, Oliver Kahn, ex-Bayern icon, was taking in the same drama of the Bundesliga title jostle on television, both a winner and a very angry loser on an extraordinary afternoon.

Barely had Müller signalled the cue for celebrations, Dortmund having failed to bump their scoreline from 2-2 into the victory that would make them champions, gifting Bayern an 11th successive title, than the fan with the Salihamidzic selfie realised he had captured a historic image: the last recorded picture of Salihamidzic as Bayern's sporting director. "Brazzo" had just been sacked. So had Kahn, as Bayern's chief executive. Müller, being interviewed live in Cologne, had to interrupt his motormouth account of Saturday's cliffhanger, the title zigzagging from Dortmund to Bayern, to Dortmund and then back to Bayern, to react to these firings. "What? Now?" he asked. "A minute after the final whistle?"

On days like these, to follow Bayern is to binge-watch a season's worth of *Succession*, to find the football eclipsed by a family drama where heirs to power learn, brutally, that moving closer to power means knowing how dispensable you are. This is the club that advertises in-house excellence as its formula for sustained success, yet suffers a chronic factionalism. It's the club where ex-players are cultivated as future executives, a tradition maintained through half a century since Uli Hoeness, the Logan Roy of Bavaria, upgraded from centre forward through almost every governing role and for whom a stretch in prison for tax evasion proved no impediment to being invited back as president.

It's the club where ex-Bayern players can return as managers, win a double (Niko Kovac, 2019) or a sextuple (Hansi Flick, 2020) and still leave on bad terms within six months of achieving their sweep of trophies. Hoeness, 71, is now Bayern's honorary president. For "honorary" read "hyperactively involved". He was taking flak from the Kahn faction as Bayern's players yesterday set off for Marienplatz for the annual presentation of the Bundesliga Shield. "Someone is responsible," Axel Kahn, the older brother of Oliver, posted, "and it's the one who brought Brazzo and Oliver into the club. That was and is Uli Hoeness."

He called the firing of his brother (eight Bundesligas in goal for Bayern; MBA diligently studied and passed in order to run Bayern) and Salihamidzic (six Bundesligas as player; five as recruiter-in-chief) "disrespectful, revolting and cowardly — nothing new for Bayern".

Oliver Kahn revealed that he had been told by the club not to attend the D-Day game in Cologne, the announcement of his sacking scheduled for immediately after Bayern had lost or unexpectedly claimed the title. They won it with Jamal Musiala's 89th-minute goal pushing them on goal difference above jittery Dortmund, who had led the table by two points. "The worst day of my life," Kahn called it, even as he welcomed the surprise title success. He was replaced by the club's chief financial officer, Jan-Christian Dreesen, a career banker. But the ex-player tradition should soon be restored to the executive floor. Favourite to replace Salihamidzic is Max Eberl (one match for Bayern in the 1990s) from RB Leipzig. Tipped to return to a more hands-on role is Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, 67, who, like Hoeness, held senior positions between his retirement as a Ballon D'Or-class striker in the late 1980s and 2021, when Kahn succeeded him as chief executive. Amid all this blood-letting, what next for Thomas Tuchel, the drained head coach?

He at least made it to the title parade without being sacked. But he was hardly being fêted for his first Bundesliga title, 12 league matches — but only six wins — since his appointment as late-season firefighter. Tuchel knows Bayern's power brokers regard this title as won by default. Those — Salihamidzic and Kahn — who dismissed his predecessor, Julian Nagelsmann, in March and brought him in are no longer active allies. The players who carried Bayern to the title are the same brittle lot who twice gave away leads and conceded three penalties in the last two hours of title-chasing. When Leipzig won in Munich, 3-1 after trailing at half-time, nine days ago, Bayern let slip their advantage in the table. When Cologne converted their penalty to equalise in the 81st minute on Saturday, they let it slip again.

When Tuchel brought on Musiala, four minutes later, as his fifth substitute, it was his last throw of the dice. Dortmund provided Tuchel with his decisive allies. His former club had glimpsed the finishing line and wilted. They went 2-0 down to Mainz within 25 minutes. Sebastien Haller had a first-half penalty saved, one of 29 Dortmund goal attempts. When the last of those, from Niklas Sule, speared in, deep into stoppage time for 2-2, the comeback had run out of minutes.

Dortmund's sporting director, Sebastian Kehl, fought back tears. Just down the A1 autobahn Bayern's sporting director was getting the sack. While Dortmund's star prodigy, Jude Bellingham, restricted by injury to the substitutes' bench, shielded himself from a TV camera trailing his disappointment, his childhood friend, Bayern's Musiala, was being framed in history as the supersub saviour. Dortmund retreated to their usual, servile posture: the club admired for every so often making Germany's one-horse race look competitive; lauded for making young players better; remembered by their starlets for the opportunities, as they leave for better guarantees of major prizes. Erling Haaland, Ousmane Dembélé and Christian Pulisic all did that, clutching Bundesliga runners-up medals. Bellingham now intends to, as he packs away the silver medal that really should have been a gold.



Bayern Munich's players celebrate on a day of incredible highs and lows in the Bundesliga, which included Borussia Dortmund's Bellingham picking up a silver medal that really should have been a gold

SPALLETTI SABBATICAL SHOCKS NAPOLI

The Napoli manager Luciano Spalletti, who led the club to their first Serie A title since 1990, will stand down as manager. He took over in 2021.

Aurelio De Laurentiis, the club's owner, has revealed the 64-year-old asked to take a sabbatical. "Spalletti told me that a cycle has come to an end and he … wants a sabbatical year. I will respect his choice," De Laurentiis said. The decision reportedly stems from a clause in his contract that forbids him from managing anyone next season.

Meanwhile, AC Milan beat Juventus 1-0, a win that secures Champions League football for Milan with a game to spare, and knocks Juventus down to seventh and a Conference League spot.

FUNNY OLD GAME

Comedian George Lewis reflects on the week's action



Napoli boss Luciano Spalletti celebrated his side winning Serie A by getting a tattoo which made it look like the Napoli crest was appearing from underneath the torn flesh on his forearm. If you haven't seen the picture, it's less tasteful than it sounds.

Here we keep things a bit classier. We have end-of-season do's, which, in my Sunday League experience involve a function room, playing *(Simply) The Best* on repeat, and upwards of two different types of sandwich.

I dare say, they go bigger in the Premier League, though, and there will be all manner of celebrations. For some, like Manchester City, it'll be a night of pure joy as they presumably celebrate winning everything this season and every foreseeable season.

Some, like Liverpool's, will be more muted affairs with players engaging in awkward small talk. James Milner might ask Mo Salah, "Doing anything nice over summer?" Mo might reply, "Sitting inside staring in the mirror and castigating myself for the shame we have brought upon this club, you?" "Couple of weeks in North Wales probably, my uncle's got a caravan there, so …"

Southampton's will probably be fun in a Year 11 leavers' party way. With the manager and half the players looking like they are leaving, they will just be signing each other's shirts before the pens get confiscated because someone drew something rude on James Ward-Prowse's shoulder.

Chelsea definitely won't be standing arm in arm belting out *Sweet Caroline*. Their do has been cancelled. Apparently they couldn't find a venue that would accommodate so many managers. But it means no ceremonial carriage clock presentation to Frank Lampard. I don't suppose he cares. But it will be sad to see him go. He's a nice bloke and good value in press conferences. It'd be great if someone could find him a job in football that seems important but no one else wants. Maybe Spurs manager?

The strangest party will surely be Arsenal's. If you've seen their new kit launch, you'll know that they seemed to have been planning their title celebrations prematurely. The new strip is covered in gold — you know, the colour which is mainly associated with coming first. But they announced that the gold had nothing to do with the presumption that they would win the league. It's completely unconnected. It's actually to commemorate the 2003-04 "Invincibles" side.

Their awards will presumably involve huge bottles of champagne they have rebranded as tributes to French players from that famous team, T-shirts that have had "04" stitched over the end of the phrase Champions 2023. And Mikel Arteta will be trying to convince everyone that his tattoo in fact shows Jens Lehmann lifting the League trophy, even though it looks like Aaron Ramsdale with freshly tattooed curly hair.

TIMES 2
May 29 | 2023





My extraordinary mother How she survived Belsen

By Daniel Finkelstein

Why Florence Pugh is the new Marlon Brando — and every bit as good

Kevin Maher



Another day, another Florence Pugh photo-gate. This time the 27-year-old star of *Little Women* and *Midsommar* was snapped on the streets of Rome looking like someone who might nut you into unconsciousness after a chance encounter at 4am on the Old Kent Road, ie blade-one skinhead, copious amounts of finger bling and the kind of studded bovver boots that seem readymade for cracking ribs.

What makes it work, however, is the swagger — it's that fabulously defiant mien, coupled to immense talent. She's from the Brando school of celebrity, someone who is so impossibly good at what she does that she doesn't need to worry about the other stuff, like what you're supposed to look like in photos.

After causing a minor scandal, for instance, for appearing in a sheer Valentino top, in Rome (again), last year, she revealed that her attitude to conforming to acceptable female beauty standards espoused by the Hollywood machine is, "F*** it and f*** that." That's them told.

I met her in 2018, in a café in central London, when she was just starting out, and even then she was buzzing with a palpable intensity matched by the industry-wide hysteria building around her. Her only notable role, at that time, was as the lead in the dark 19th-century chiller *Lady Macbeth*, yet that performance was so commanding that she had been inundated with offers, and was juggling an upcoming schedule that included movies with Liam Neeson (*The Commuter*), Anthony Hopkins (*King Lear*), Chris Pine (*Outlaw King*) and Dwayne Johnson (*Fighting with My Family*). She noted, only half-joking, that audiences would soon, "be sick of me. You'll be taking eggs into the cinema and throwing them at the screen!"

And she kept going, getting even better and stronger, heartbreaking in *Midsommar* and rightfully Oscar-nominated in *Little Women*. By the time the sci-fi thriller *Don't Worry Darling* came along, Pugh seemed to have extended her "F*** it and f*** that" motto to the entirety of Hollywood, and simply refused to play the game. There had, reportedly, been tension on the *Don't Worry Darling* set

COBRA TEAM/BACKGRID



between Pugh and her director Olivia Wilde concerning Wilde's relationship with the film's leading man Harry Styles. In normal circumstances, and deferring to the Tinseltown publicity playbook, Pugh would've sucked it all up and smiled for the cameras. But no. See motto. She dropped out of all press and only turned up at the film's Venice premiere, very briefly, to remind everyone about the true presence of greatness.

The film is terrible. Styles is a plank, the plot makes no sense, but Pugh remains riveting. And that's what she does. It's part of that creative tradition. Even ostensibly duff movies like *The Chase* and *The Young Lions* become riveting every time Brando appears. Because this rare breed of performer has that ability to transform screen time into screen magic. You can't make it happen. It simply lives in the glorious swagger of someone standing on the street in Rome, with a skinhead, a pair of bovver boots and a look that really couldn't care less.

Kevin Maher is film critic of The Times

I failed the Cannes dress code

Speaking of glamorous movie premieres, I was intrigued to see that Ukrainian model Alina Baikova was last week yanked from the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival for wearing an apparently controversial T-shirt emblazoned with the words "F* You Putin". Well, Alina, at least you were actually doing something when they got to you! I was unceremoniously yanked from the same red carpet, at the premiere for *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*, for the bizarre and seemingly outrageous crime of wearing, in my formal attire, a straight black tie instead of a bow tie. "I am sorry monsieur, but you cannot go inside wiz ziss!" said the clearly outraged Cannes flunky, pointing to my neck region as if I had, gathered round it, a dead stoat rather than an £85 silk black tie from Thomas Pink. Luckily, another Cannes flunky was carrying a sack of back-up clobber, from which she produced an enormous, old school, Robin Day-era bow tie. It did the job. I got inside. Didn't make the film any better.**

Water cold enough for the King

After recent reports claimed that "eco-conscious" King Charles switches off the lights and turns down the heating on the pool in Buckingham Palace, I can confirm that we are indeed on the same page. Not with the lights (not great at that). But I cannot abide a warm pool. Has to be freezing for me. Warm pools are so late-20th century, and leave you feeling sluggish and clammy. Freezing pools, as iceman Wim Hof will attest, properly shock you into life. Even better, our local outdoor pool is fed by mountain spring water. This means that if I keep my mouth open during front crawl it's like downing a quid's worth of Evian, only with a slight aftertaste of sun cream and sticking plasters.

What's hot? Be

From the sharp menswear pin-up to the must-watch movies and the essential read, here are the trends to know for summer. How many will you try?

The bromance movie
Robert Crampton

The Eight Mountains is a classic arthouse film. Almost two and a half hours during which nothing much happens. Lingering, beautifully framed shots of trees. Extended sequences with no dialogue. Subtitles. No guns, explosions, jokes or sex. Jury Prize at Cannes last year. A film such as this wouldn't normally cross my radar but a pal urged me so insistently to see it that I did. Now I urge you to see it too.

The action, such as it is, starts in the summer of 1984. Two 11-year-olds from what we are given to suspect might be dysfunctional families become friends in a remote village in the Italian Alps. Pietro is a city boy on holiday. His father is a company man who adores the hills yet works too hard to fulfil his dream of a rural life. Bruno is a proud *montanaro*, or highlander, from an old Piedmont clan. His dad has rejected his heritage and is away working as a bricklayer in northern Europe, while his uncle is struggling to keep the family cheese-making business going in the days when "artisanal" still meant "really hard work for little reward".

The rest of the film tells the story of Pietro and Bruno's friendship, as they move from innocence through adolescence to full, luxuriously bearded, chunky-sweatered manhood. There is a lot of smoking, a fair amount of grappa, plenty of cheese and a refreshing amount of manual labour. Bruno grows up quickly; Pietro is a lost soul for a while. "His adult life started at 13," Pietro says of his friend, "while at 31 I am still partly a boy."

The truly impressive element of the film is the way that it handles male friendship. It avoids the usual clichés. Bruno is not caricatured as a noble savage full of salty peasant wisdom, Pietro does not turn into a tortured artist. They understand each other, don't make demands, don't compete, don't really get angry. Which is the way it has to be, if you're going to stay close for a lifetime. I'd have been happy to watch them for even longer than I did. Of course it helps that both men are mesmerically hot, and that most of the film takes place in one of the most ravishing landscapes on the planet.



The Eight Mountains

Pep: style icon
Harriet Walker

He is the lean and tidy tactical genius whose Man City squad are on course for a historic treble of the Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League. Pep Guardiola, 52, is the most admired man in football: men want to look like him and their wives wish they did too.

A Lorca among the linesmen, the Spanish manager has a pitchside look that is most often a shell jacket, jumper and jeans, all in fitted beatnik black. He has been a fan of rave-era streetwear brands such as Stone Island and earned maximum local cool points when he appeared in a "MDCR" sweatshirt that evoked the city's Madchester past. Yet he is just as often to be found in the one per cent's favourite off-duty uniform: poloneck, blazer and tailored trousers, like some Stanley Tucci of the beautiful game.

Guardiola recently joined an elite tier of celebrities with items of clothing named after them. Jane Birkin inspired the Hermès bag, Blake Lively a Christian Louboutin heel: Pep is the face that launched a £70 pair of cargo pants on the streetwear site beeinspiredclothing.com (think AsSeenOnScreen-era Asos but for footballers).

This isn't his first time as a fashion plate: Guardiola, then a Barcelona player, strolled the catwalk for the Catalan designer Antonio Miró in the Nineties. While his manager Johan Cruyff was annoyed, Miró was not — everything Pep wore sold out. Grab those cargos while you still can.

The hot novel
Robbie Millen

When I finished reading *Soldier Sailor* I gave a shifty, red-eyed look around the café I was sitting in. Had anyone noticed my attack of the blubs? Claire Kilroy made me cry. The ending to her novel is beautiful, tender, noble even. A happy ending that makes you cry — surely that's the best of both worlds.

Soldier Sailor takes us inside the mind of a new mother who is not coping. The novel is addressed to her baby, Sailor, who is setting out on the voyage of life, by the narrator who sees herself as a wounded soldier. Baby never stops crying, and mother is frazzled. The husband, who hides at work, is useless (or is he? There's plenty going on to kick-start a hundred book club discussions).

Oh no, you might think, not another moany novel about motherhood. Worry not: Kilroy, an Irish novelist, makes a well-trodden subject feel original by combining literary skill (it's my early bet for the Booker prize) with

more Pep — and sex up your shed

GETTY IMAGES; ANDREW WHITTON; LAURA JACKSON/INSTAGRAM





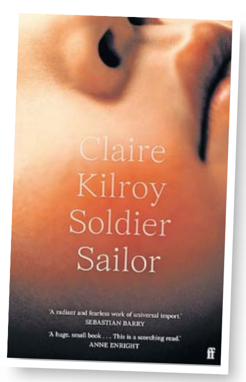




Above: Lost Village Festival, Lincolnshire. Right: the designer Beata Heuman's shed in west London. Far right: Girl with a Pearl Earring by Johannes Vermeer

warmth, humour and wicked observations of everyday life — check out the set-piece scenes navigating the horrorscape of an Ikea, or driving angry and late to a party: "he leaned forward to peer at the Micra driver as we sped past, for the steering wheel that crowned him king of the road revealed the decrepitude of others. The Steering Wheel of Truth."

On nearly every page there was a sentence or an observation that I wanted to underline because it was funny, lovely or real. Stuffing a dummy in a screaming baby's mouth is "like putting a pin back into a grenade. The explosion was sucked back in." "Dishwasher juice was trapped in the hollow yellowing teat [of a soother]. You sampled it like a sommelier." And isn't this a lovely description of a playground? "Little kids bolted around in all directions, their skulls narrowly missing one another. It was the Hadron Collider in there."



Food festivals
Hannah Evans

So you're not going to Glastonbury. Not because you missed out on the ballot but because you know that this summer the hottest festival to go to is a food festival — and they're just as tricky to get tickets to. Summer Camp is a "luxury micro festival" in Wales taking place across four weekends in July; food is the headlining act — this summer Olia Hercules, a Ukrainian chef and author, is the main event — and there are just 125 tickets, which means you would probably have better luck getting into Glasto. Lost Village is a four-day food and music festival in a secluded woodland in Lincolnshire where the line-up includes world-famous DJs and Michelin-star chefs who will cook forest feasts. You've a better chance of nabbing a ticket here: there are 18,000 but it's still "intimate" — 210,000 will be at Glastonbury.

Hate camping? Yoxman is a three-day food festival at the 8,000-acre Wilderness Reserve estate in Suffolk. You'll stay in luxury cottages and manors on the grounds, while Michelin-star chefs such as Michel Roux and Angela Harnett do the cooking. The catch: it's next summer — probably a good thing considering tickets start at £2,750 for two people.

Sexy sheds
Victoria Brzezinski

Forget the man cave, these are top of the garden lust list. Ultimate outhouse inspiration comes courtesy of Beata Heuman, the interior designer with a penchant for bombastic pattern and print. She packs a serious punch within the walls of her 2m x 3m shed, housing a loveseat upholstered in her favourite Pierre Frey chintz and a daybed covered in her own Asteria's Folly fabric. Inside, the ceiling and panelling are painted in postbox red and a hand-stamped monochrome leaf motif. Her shed mantra? Fun is in, practicality is out. "Lean into the fantasy of it," she urges.

Meanwhile, Richard Christiansen's goat shed in Los Angeles, a former goatherder's cabin built in the 1930s, has been luxxed-up with de Gournay wallpaper and Hermès dining chairs.

For mellower tastes, the shed guru Joel Bird (theshedbuilder.co.uk) has designed more than 100 bespoke wooden creations, from budget-friendly writer's rooms to a Derek Jarman-inspired shed with charred shou sugi ban-style cladding and bright yellow window frames, based on Prospect Cottage in Dungeness, Kent. Bird's own shed in his Margate garden features an allotment on its roof and an ingenious irrigation system.

If you fancy DIYing your own, turn to the shed-fluencer Erika Kotite, the author of *She Shed Living*, for tips on turning scrap materials into chic sheds.

The Vermeer film
Hilary Rose

If, like me, you never take the audio guide at art exhibitions then *Vermeer: The Greatest Exhibition* is a revelation. I'm doing both of them a disservice there. I just find audio guides distracting, and this film is much, much more than they could offer. You may be one of the lucky few with tickets to the real thing, but what the rest of us get is the best talking heads around: the director of the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, the exhibition's curator, and an assortment of eminent art historians, experts and conservators. They explain what we're looking at, why it's brilliant and how Johannes Vermeer painted it. It reminds me of one of my lockdown mainstays, *Cocktails with a Curator*, where experts from the Frick Collection mixed a cocktail and talked in detail about one of the items in the museum. This film takes us through pretty much Vermeer's entire oeuvre and gives us the lowdown, even though we know tantalisingly little about him.



There are close-ups that take you far closer than you'd be allowed to get in person: the glint of a single gold coin in *The Procuress*, the glowing highlight on a pearl earring that's just a dab of white paint, but yeesh, what a dab. An awestruck conservator talks about the magic of working on a Vermeer, small and vulnerable out of its frame. They explain something I would never have noticed in the flesh: how a cloud in *View of Delft* casts a shadow over the buildings in the foreground but not those at the back. We speculate about who commissioned *The Geographer* and my money is on some bigwig in the Dutch East India Company.

Is this film, as some say, the best seat in the house? No. The best seat is obviously the one right in front of the actual painting. Nothing will ever beat that. In an ideal world you'd see both. Failing that, watch this.

Sober dating
Hannah Evans

Tall? Tick. Dark? Tick. Handsome? Tick. Likes a drink? Ick. For an emerging wave of single people, DUI (dating under the influence) is a turn-off. Some of them are even lumping it in the same category as smoking.

On TikTok searches for the term "alcohol is new cigarettes" has more than 13 million views and according to research by the dating app Tinder, almost three quarters of people who use the app have stated on their profile they either don't drink or only have the occasional one.

Now I want to blame this trend on Gen Z — they seem to be responsible for most things that seem strange to anyone aged 28 and above (millennials and older). But among my group of girlfriends who are in their late twenties and alcohol enthusiasts, four out of six of us — myself included — have recently dated sober men. "I like it because I can trust my intuition," says my friend Maeve. "Alcohol usually clouds it. But if we're both not drinking, I can trust my gut much more. If I had fun it's because there was a vibe, not because the margaritas at the bar were great."

My mother's terrible year in Belsen, aged 10 — and how she made it out alive



Life in the concentration camp was brutal, with prisoners battling cold, hunger and illness. Then came a chance to escape it. By Daniel Finkelstein

Daniel Finkelstein's mother, Mirjam Wiener, was the youngest of three daughters born in Germany to Alfred and Margarete Wiener. Alfred, now widely acknowledged to have been the first person to recognise the existential danger Hitler posed to the Jews, moved his family to Amsterdam in 1933. He was in London when Germany invaded Holland. In June 1943 his family was arrested by the Nazis and sent to Westerbork, a holding camp on the Dutch border (from where Mirjam's aunt, uncle and cousin were sent to Auschwitz, where they died). In January 1944 Mirjam was sent to Belsen concentration camp, with her mother and sisters. She was 10.

The railway station was an hour's walk from Belsen and the prisoners set off on foot, carrying their own luggage. Even from a distance, they could see barbed wire and watchtowers and hear barking dogs. The word my mother, Mirjam, would use most often to describe Belsen was "bleak. It was terribly bleak."

Their stay in Belsen began with something that was to prove one of its most prominent features. Standing and being counted. On arrival, it was only for a couple of hours, but it would often last much longer than that. Belsen in January was freezing, and none of the prisoners was dressed to stand around for long periods. This time — because it was relatively short, because they weren't yet at the point of starvation — everyone could just about cope with the roll call, before being allocated barracks. But eventually, being counted would become a torture and result in death for many.

Belsen was always cold. It was cold outside, it was cold where they slept, it was cold in the workplaces. There was a stove in the barracks, but it gave off little heat. At night, as the temperature dropped, there was warmth only from the other people sleeping nearby in the straw on the wooden bunks. As the camp filled, there were two or sometimes three to a bunk.

The adults all had to work. My grandmother Grete cleaned the barracks, including that of the German guards. My mother's eldest sister Ruth was at first assigned to work in the kitchens, but two days later she was moved to the so-called "shoe commando". It was a fortunate move. The kitchen involved getting up at three in the morning, being counted, and marching across the camp in rows of five. Although, theoretically, you could eat as much food as you liked while you were working, in practice it was inedible. The kitchen's main ingredient was turnips and eating them raw made you ill.

Some people were assigned to work in the kitchens that served the SS officers. There you might be able to get your hands on such delicacies as a raw carrot. But this was almost worse. The temptation to smuggle the carrots out, which was forbidden, was too great. A distant relative did exactly that, stealing carrots for his starving young son. He was caught, made to stand overnight for twelve hours by the barbed wire fence, and in the morning he and his family simply disappeared. They were never heard from again.

The shoe commando was less dangerous, with slightly better hours. The "factory", as it was jocularly referred to by the workers, processed the shoes of the Jews that the Nazis were killing. The shoes were sent to Belsen from all over Europe, and would be collected from the freight trucks, and assembled in a huge pile. From this men, based in one room, would pick up the shoes of dead children, separate the soles from the uppers and pass the latter through to the women's room.





Mirjam Wiener and Anne Frank both attended Montessori schools in Amsterdam. Top: Mirjam with her children, Tamara, Daniel and Sir Anthony Finkelstein

T TIMES+

On June 8 Daniel Finkelstein will be in conversation with Hugo Rifkind for subscribers to The Times and The Sunday Times. To register to attend online, visit *mytimesplus.co.uk/events*

At a large table, Ruth would sit with her fellow inmates, using a little knife to pick apart the uppers. In front of the group were military helmets to use as bowls, and into one they would place buckles, into another the laces, and so on. Then the stolen leather of murdered Jews was taken away and recycled to assist the German war effort. One of Ruth's co-workers said that life in the shoe commando was "indescribable. Dirty, airless, dark, cold … the filthiest job there is."

While Grete and Ruth worked, my mother and her middle sister Eva were left behind in the camp to do "basically nothing", as Mirjam described it. "One wasn't allowed to gather together. We did a bit of sort of helping with people who had small children." She would sometimes go to the back of the camp with a spoon because the empty lunch churns would be there. The children would see whether they could find some leftover turnip scrapings.

"We sat around a lot doing nothing basically because the thing was to conserve one's energy. If you're hungry, you don't do anything, you know … You haven't got the energy to play, though no doubt being children I suppose we did pick up pebbles and play five-stones or something like that."

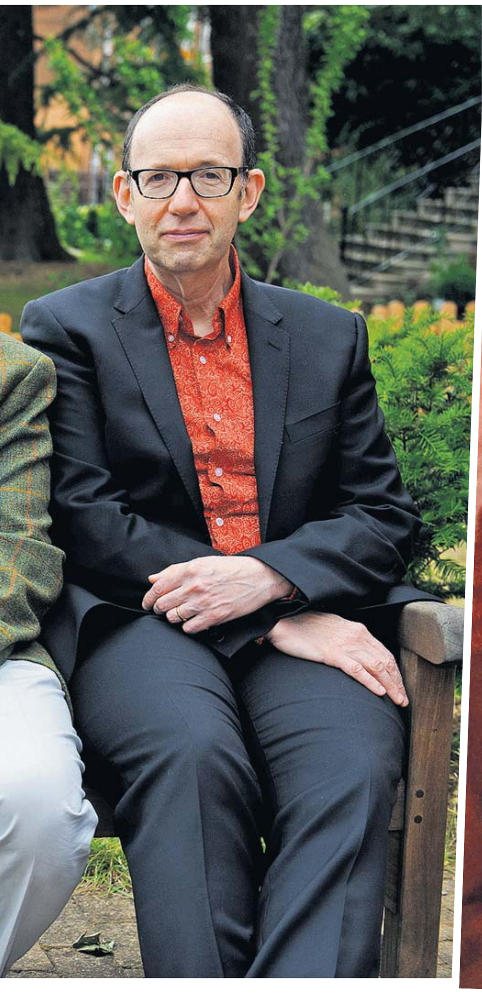
But one other activity my mother did recall clearly. Being counted. The Nazis favoured doing this late at night, they liked to do it when it was particularly cold, they enjoyed doing it when it was raining. The prisoners would be in thin shirts, sometimes in socks without shoes. The square would turn to mud. And the German officers, in their greatcoats and their high leather boots, would count and count and count.

If someone was late, they might be beaten, and the count would start again. Mirjam particularly recalled a German soldier who was widely know as William Tell, a pun on his name (Wilhelm) and counting (Tell). He would push prisoners and kick them and shout at them. And then he would announce, often with a smirk, that a mistake had been made and the count would need to start again. Sometimes this might go on for four hours, sometimes even more.

People would collapse and die and be left in the mud until counting had finished. Later, a cart would take away the corpses. What was this counting for? No one was going anywhere, nobody could escape. Even straying near the barbed wire could — and sometimes did — get you shot dead. So the counting wasn't really a security procedure. It was about control and the establishment of authority.

The more the inmates of Belsen starved, the more they talked about food, dreamt about food, even wrote about food. With a blunt pencil, Grete put down on paper some of her favourite recipes, and I found them among my mother's papers when she

COVER: TOM JACKSON FOR THE TIMES. BELOW: GAMMA-KEYSTONE/GETTY IMAGES







died. Simple things like omelette ("Burns easily!"); plum dumplings ("From yesterday's boiled potatoes (cold!), mix well, 2 eggs, enough flour to make dumplings, a little bit of salt, roll out, cut into four square pieces, wash plums well, dry them, take out the stones, put in salted water, sprinkle with brown butter"); stuffed bread ("Cut the top off a white loaf, leave a lid, hollow out the inside, do not damage the crust, stuff with cooked vegetables or cooked meat, a lot of fat or with fruit (eg preserved apricots)").

It is possible that Grete wrote these out so that her children would know how to cook her signature dishes. But almost certainly the real reason Grete wrote them out was to remind herself of what food was, to savour the tastes even if just in her head, to remember the past, to imagine the future. As long as they survived and she saw her children to freedom. As she was determined she would.

News about the progress of the war spread quickly in Belsen. A guard might speak out of turn and the rumour mill would do the rest. Ruth's diary shows that the inmates knew of D-Day on the day it happened. There had been rumours about an Allied assault for at least a month before. And, in May 1944, Ruth began to report air-raid alarms, which then appear in the diary with increasing frequency. That the war was now going badly for the Germans was, naturally, a source of encouragement to the camp inmates. But its immediate practical impact on them was disastrous.



The Nazis began to evacuate other concentration camps which they thought would be overrun by their enemies. Although there are few records to help establish exactly how many people arrived in Belsen after the summer of 1944, it is clear that it numbered in the tens of thousands. From being almost empty at the beginning of the year, by December there were about 15,000 people in the camp. By the end of March 1945, there were nearly 40,000 in the camp and in total there were around 50,000 deaths in Belsen.

Among those who came from Auschwitz, and were housed in tents, were Margot and Anne Frank. Ruth was told that some Dutch people had arrived in Belsen, and she went to see who might be on the other side of the barbed wire. She took Mirjam with her and they were excited to see familiar faces. On December 20, 1944, Ruth wrote in her diary: "Margot and Anne Frank in the other camp." The new arrivals were mostly barefoot and had no coats. Ruth recalled that the Franks looked "pretty horrible".

As the camp population grew, its leadership became less capable of looking after it. In so far as they cared. That there was less food available was partly the result of the breaking down of supply lines. The collapse of the sanitary system and the lack of basic facilities and hygiene, however, were primarily caused by the indolence and callousness of the camp's SS officers. The result was that the prisoners began to sicken and die, particularly from typhus, typhoid and dysentery, made worse by attending endless roll calls in all sorts of weather. There was no one to look after the sick, and no medicines. And soon there was no one to bury them either.



Mirjam, centre, with her sisters Eva and Ruth in America a few months after they left the camp. Top: in 2004 with Daniel's son Aron. Top right: Belsen concentration camp when it was liberated in 1945. Left: Daniel Finkelstein

The deaths and illnesses came closer and closer to the Wieners. A friend of Ruth, whose father had already died, woke up in her bunk to find her mother dead beside her. On November 21, 1944, Ruth wrote in her diary: "Mother gets certificate from chief medical officer to declare her unable to work or be at roll call." Weakening, possibly ill from typhus, feeding her children before she fed herself, Grete now found it hard to leave her bunk.

On the morning of January 20, 1945, the barracks door flew open, there were boots stamping on the floor, a call to attention, and then an instruction: "Report immediately to the chief doctor to determine your fitness for exchange." [As the war neared its conclusion, Heinrich Himmler exchanged Jews for money or German nationals, trapped abroad.]

Mirjam always thought that the medical exam was designed to exclude anyone whose condition would reveal to the Allies how bad things were in the camps. But, in so far as disguising the privations of the camp was the aim, it was bound to fail. The condition of all Belsen inmates, the Wieners included, was terrible by this point. A Swiss Jew who would witness Mirjam and her fellow survivors disembark from their journey to freedom observed: "I have already seen much misery, but I have never before encountered such shadowy, emotionally and physically broken figures, as on this transport. They moved past me like so many ghosts."

The greater reason for the exam was probably a practical one. The Nazis didn't want people to die on the journey. It would be a nuisance. They'd have a body on their hands. Perhaps it could be left for the Swiss to deal with, but if a prisoner died, the Germans would also have the wrong number of people to exchange. The difficult negotiations had ended in the strict rule that the swap would be one for one — one person sent to Germany for every one person set free by the Germans.

For nearly two months, Grete had hardly been able to leave her bunk. Objectively, it was hard to imagine any sort of examination that she would pass. But Grete saw things differently. It had been five years since she had watched her husband Alfred fly off from the airport in Amsterdam, and she had fought every day since then. She had fought to protect her children against oppression, she had fought to give them some sort of childhood despite everything, she had starved herself so that they would eat. She would not fail now. Salvation was in sight. She would not let the girls down now. Her daughters helped her from the bunk and together they approached the roll-call square, where a table had been placed. At the table sat the medical director and his assistant in white coats.

As Mirjam described it: "One often sees these scenes in films … we had to walk past him [the medical director]. And he would decide who would or would not go to wherever it was we were going."

There were hundreds of passport holders in line and many would fail the test. Somehow Grete managed to hold herself upright, and walk past the table, and pass the medical exam. "Next!" called out the doctor, ticking off the Wieners from his checklist. It was a supreme moment of courage and fortitude, the greatest Grete had shown in those five years, and she had shown many. The family was told to start packing.

The train would leave the next day, on January 21, but before that came yet another unsettling experience. The exchange-Jews were told they would be given a shower. They were taken to the bathhouse and told to strip. By this stage of the war, almost everyone knew what that might mean. Mirjam recalls being oblivious, but noticing the fear of the adults. There was relief, even laughter, when water came out of the showerheads.

***Hitler, Stalin, Mum & Dad: A Family Memoir of Miraculous Survival* by Daniel Finkelstein is published by William Collins on June 8 (£25). To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935. Free UK standard P&P on orders over £25. Special discount available for Times+ members**

Ask Professor Tanya Byron

My husband has Alzheimer's, is depressed and drinks to excess

Q My husband is very proud of his intellect and had a successful career in business. He has always used alcohol as a support for insecurities but does not tolerate it well, leading to many mishaps in our decades-long marriage, some requiring A&E attendance. He binges and drinks in secret.

He was devastated when he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. He erupts in anger on a daily basis and will sometimes threaten to seriously harm himself although this is more to demonstrate the depth of his despair rather than actual suicidal intent. (He explored this with a psychiatrist at the time of diagnosis.)

While acknowledging his illness, he seems unable to recognise this in practice, so his memory of an event is always correct even if it didn't happen. Recently he has become obsessed with events when he feels he is being disrespected. His confabulations are absurd: a family member "snatching" the TV remote from his hands so he couldn't watch TV, for example. The Alzheimer's groups in our area seem to focus on support for those whose illness is more advanced than my husband's.

Our happiest moments are spent doing crosswords and being out and about. We're fortunate to have family and friends who are supportive at the same time as being concerned for our welfare. Without me as a buffer, however, I fear my husband is at risk of alienating himself from the very people who care about him. I would like to maximise the good times and deal better with the challenges we face, but alcohol casts a long shadow over our lives and I feel emotionally exhausted by his outbursts. It is difficult to know what I must accept in his behaviour because it is driven by his illness, and what could be changed if only I could discover how.
Lorna

A Dementia is the term used to describe a decline in mental ability severe enough to interfere with daily life, and there are an estimated 900,000 people living with it in the UK. Research indicates that Alzheimer's, a specific disease, is the most common cause of dementia, diagnosed in 50 to 75 per cent of cases.

Your husband is clearly distraught about his diagnosis and so uses alcohol as a way of numbing and narcotising himself. While extremely unhealthy, this is understandable. The excessive drinking predates his Alzheimer's diagnosis, however, so his relationship with alcohol is significantly more complex than just being a reaction to his life-changing diagnosis.

Alcohol and dementia do not mix. While your husband is in the early stages of his dementia, excess alcohol intake will progress the disease much faster, increasing risks to both his health and safety. Clearly this will also impact on you and, as you point out, those that love and care for him — risking alienation and rejection.

I am not clear on whether your husband has been prescribed any medication, but he may be taking an acetylcholinesterase-inhibiting drug such as donepezil, galantamine or rivastigmine (to increase acetylcholine and so increase communication between nerve cells) or, if he cannot tolerate an AChE inhibitor or when his Alzheimer's worsens, memantine (to block the effects of excess glutamate, which can damage or kill brain cells). These medications improve symptoms and slow its progression. However, drinking alcohol with medication will impact effectiveness and can be dangerous.

As we age, our brain atrophies (shrinks). Excess alcohol intake will accelerate that cognitive decline related to the neurodegenerative changes, impacting memory and the ability to think clearly. Damage to blood vessels in the brain can lead to high blood pressure, increasing the risk of a stroke. Also, alcohol prevents the body from getting enough thiamine (vitamin B1), which is essential for brain function.

> "He uses alcohol as a way of numbing and narcotising himself

If you would like Professor Tanya Byron's help, email proftanyabyron @thetimes.co.uk



Your husband has overused alcohol throughout his adult life, so it will be a difficult behaviour to change. To solve any problem, it is first imperative to understand the drivers of the problem. You write that your husband has used alcohol over the years as "a support for insecurities" to a degree that's caused "mishaps" and "A&E attendance", indicating excessive use to the point of intoxication and injury. This all indicates that he has struggled with feelings of inadequacy and anxiety but has never addressed them in a healthy way, instead becoming dependent on alcohol to manage these deep-seated issues. His Alzheimer's diagnosis has exacerbated these anxiety-related issues and, as he was able to openly discuss with his psychiatrist, led to him contemplating ending his life. It makes sense, therefore, that he will turn to his coping strategy — alcohol.

Managing excess drinking is very challenging, especially for a person with dementia who often won't remember how much they drank and will resist attempts to reduce their drinking. The fact that your husband is not only binge drinking but also drinking in secret is extremely challenging in terms of how you monitor and manage his intake in a supportive way.

There are some practical things that you can do, but nothing will work unless a) he wants to do this and b) he has support for the emotional pain that alcohol enables him to numb. Without alcohol it is likely that his mood will dip further as he is more conscious of the impact of his Alzheimer's. Given that he has contemplated suicide, reducing alcohol-related risks potentially increases those related to depression.

In addition, significantly reducing or abruptly stopping alcohol after years of heavy drinking can cause withdrawal side-effects including alcohol withdrawal syndrome. Because alcohol is a depressant and suppresses the central nervous system, when the alcohol level suddenly drops it can kick-start the "fight or flight" response. As well as increasing depression and anxiety, this causes tremors, insomnia, increased heart rate, headaches, loss of appetite, irritability, rage, restlessness, sweating, nausea and insomnia. Severe withdrawal can lead to hallucinations and seizures. It can be life-threatening.

Practically you can remove all alcohol from the house, substitute it with non-alcoholic wine or beer, make necessary adjustments for risk management, be clear about your boundaries around your husband's angry outbursts, and know when and how to remove yourself/get help. However, given the severity of this problem, I advise that your husband's psychiatrist is made aware of it. If your husband refuses to tell them, I advise that you do. Professionals have to know about any risks to their patients especially when prescribing medication. They can also advise you on treatment including counselling. Therapeutically there needs to be a two-pronged approach for your husband: addressing his alcohol dependence and the issues that underpin it, and also addressing his despair around his Alzheimer's diagnosis. Private practitioners local to you and with specific expertise can be found at bps.org.uk.

Finally, look after yourself. Supporting someone with an alcohol problem is challenging, and his dementia is an additional challenge. Enlist the help of non-judgmental family members and friends, and look at caregiver support groups both in Alzheimer's networks (alzheimers.org.uk) and addiction networks (alcoholchange.org.uk). I wish you both well.

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Bank holiday jumbo crossword

Jumbo crossword No 1618

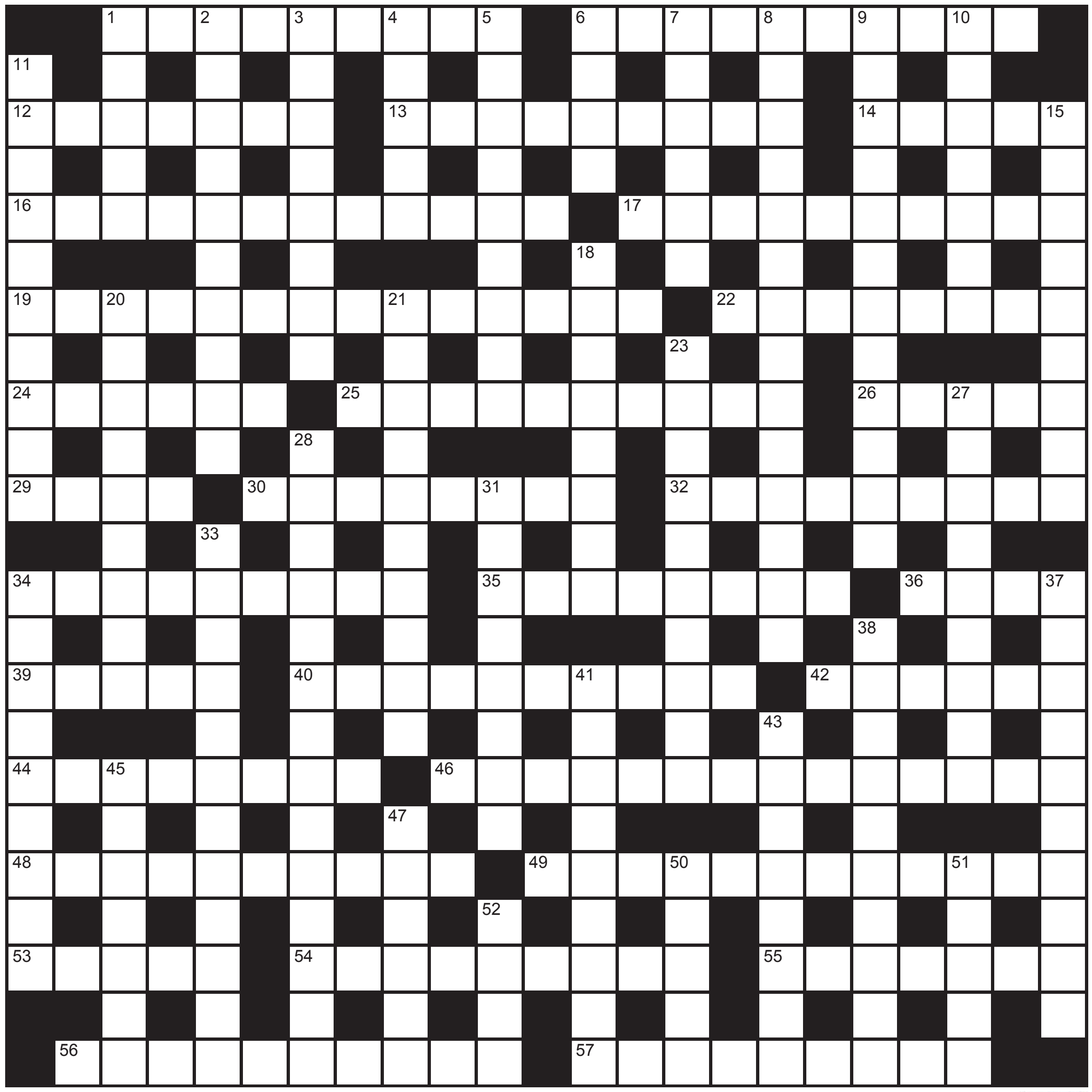
Cryptic clues

Across

1 Extraordinary achiever, ultimately faithful and gallant (9)
6 Plant put down by small pasture on level (3-7)
12 Like a belief that has died, first one held (7)
13 Exercises serve my needs most of the time: measure of my progress? (9)
14 Appropriate uniform on French page (5)
16 Four lovable OAPS primarily out for pleasure, purely? (6,2,4)
17 Brochure for goggles to be worn by group of workers (10)
19 Emotional person full of joy — and one using head: it's different (14)
22 King once originally legally installed in eastern bankrupt state? (8)
24 Cut out for duty? (6)
25 Band of rock found in sea? Elaborate! (4,6)
26 Rumour of some preconditions (2,3)
29 Shut pipe down, finding rot (4)
30 Poet's singular book on drink, so short (8)
32 As a man, like ties often? (3-6)
34 Split kebab containing first class spread (2,1,6)
35 Go after eg turning on my devices (8)
36 Pupils no longer putting heads together making error (4)
39 Staunch flow to bypass patient's glands: every second counts! (5)
40 Powerful salesperson, flash, not stopped by Glasgow cops (10)
42 Reportedly, need to pay does maybe shame (2,4)
44 Japanese writing welcome newspaper anecdotes (8)
46 Novel mug excited connoisseur (8,6)
48 Number of hooters perhaps around one as traffic is queuing? (4,2,4)
49 What's done to cow's carcass, etc: it's awful (5,7)
53 Spitfire having right to open vintage display (5)
54 Loving to add to volume, becoming noisy (9)
55 Expert on old card game subject to sanction (2,5)
56 Site of monastery one's visiting announced quite secure (4,6)
57 Wind up in hospital with child and dependants (7-2)

Down

1 Traces of clay left in model built to scale (5)
2 Gent, unclothed: so I like time in the buff! (10)
3 Once hard, melting fast (8)
4 Big map we all used off and on for drive (5)
5 Republican first lady turned politician is convert (9)
6 Tease band releasing second disc (4)
7 Alert when keeping note of liquid? (6)
8 Comprehensive answer put out by directors (6-3-5)
9 Music makers got in fights with girlfriend? (7-5)
10 Circle line is failing even at peak (7)
11 Youth with a mean statement from NY benefit office? (10)
15 Seen to go with the job, as cheque might be? (9)
18 Relieved seeing that wise daughter protects you (8)
20 Moving scenery as required (9)
21 Ultimately not inspiring confidence when Society's lost saving! (10)
23 Highpoint in resort is teashop opening on the front (10)
27 Well they mean to follow instructions — with one difference (2-7)
28 Flavoursome stuff from old poet at battle scene, seconds later (8,6)
31 What's laid on the table? That's also what it's for (3,5)
33 Make hot and spicy one, starter for guests, a brown colour? (12)
34 Stars using key to open public house across the pond (9)
37 As unaccompanied group, one might keep Pole outside? (10)
38 Evidently inferior charts slid off the wall (5-5)
41 Male garment and watch included with eighth sale item? (9)
43 Personal chaperone, too near hosts (3-2-3)
45 Before ten, mostly unusual to consume very large port (7)
47 Rogue agents have pinched bug with drone (6)
50 Touching what's potentially deadly sticky stuff (5)
51 One very quietly performing winning move (5)
52 Not exactly getting on, being unfriendly (4)



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Phone number...

Prizes



The prize for each of the first correct solutions to the Cryptic and times2 Jumbo clues to be opened will be a collection of Times reference books — including *The Times Universal Atlas of the World, Collins English Dictionary & Thesaurus,* and *Bradford's Crossword Solver's Dictionary* published by HarperCollins. Entries should be marked "Cryptic" or "times2" and sent to: The Times Jumbo Crossword 1618, PO Box 2164, Colchester, Essex CO2 8LJ; or emailed to: jumbo@thetimes.co.uk, with "Cryptic 1618" or "times2 1618" in the subject line, to arrive by June 8. Open to 18+, UK & ROI residents only. The winners and the solutions will be published on June 10.

Thinking space

times2 clues

Across

1 Right at sea (9)
6 Thumbing traveller (10)
12 Burdensome (7)
13 Substance blocking heat or electricity (9)
14 Pomeranian dog (5)
16 Having no equal (12)
17 Member of a training college for priests (10)
19 Work on a film after shooting (14)
22 Parody; variety show (8)
24 High-kicking dance (6)
25 Provider of words for an opera (10)
26 Group of three (5)
29 Remain (4)
30 Childish (8)
32 Relating to tailoring (9)
34 Toxic; malignant (9)
35 Stronghold (8)
36 Type of fine powder (4)
39 Principle, belief (5)
40 Work experience position (10)
42 Yacht harbour (6)
44 Eg, Aries (4,4)
46 Relating to church service attenders (14)
48 Certain to happen (10)
49 Sweat (12)
53 Indian ruler (5)
54 Plant of the *Equisetum* genus (9)
55 Extremely foolish (7)
56 Prevented from progressing (10)
57 Community of organisms and their environment (9)

Down

1 Farm animals (5)
2 Of doubtful authenticity (10)
3 Town in Essex (8)
4 Actor's remark to the audience (5)
5 Nonconformist (9)
6 Main body of a ship (4)
7 Restraining rope (6)
8 Garden cultivator (14)
9 Art exhibit constructed within a gallery (12)
10 Person with a superior attitude (7)
11 Conjuror's incantation (5-5)
15 Variety of wine grape (9)
18 American fizzy drink (4,4)
20 Physical feeling (9)
21 Educational establishment (10)
23 Harmful action (10)
27 Copy of an authentic article (9)
28 Person writing an account of their life (14)
31 Of low quality (8)
33 Coastal town in Tyneside (5,7)
34 Element with chemical symbol K (9)
37 Ill-fated space shuttle's name (10)
38 Believer in a profit-driven economic system (10)
41 Set apart (9)
43 Hygienic (8)
45 Inflicter of retribution (7)
47 Red Bordeaux wine (6)
50 Simultaneous artillery discharge (5)
51 Characteristic mode of expression (5)
52 Feeble person; cannabis (4)

For more crosswords and your favourite puzzles go to thetimes.co.uk

artsfirst night

pop

Wide Awake Festival
Brockwell Park, SE24
★★★★☆

Music festivals are as ubiquitous as hay fever in London parks this summer because cash-strapped authorities are using them to generate income. It is an annoyance for locals who find a massive fence around the place where they usually walk their dogs, but as day festivals go, Wide Awake showed us how to do it. Minimal queues, unobtrusive security, a stylish Gen-Z crowd and alternative/indie line-ups put together by London venues made this an excellent day out.

Philadelphia's Alex G was a big draw. This indie rocker has been celebrated as a great songwriter of his generation, with an understated approach and a way of revealing vulnerability through lyrical detail, but he was quite boring live, saying little and sticking to a mid-tempo pace. It made the animated sign-language interpreter at the side of the stage more engaging than him.

As the day wore on, things got more exciting. Jockstrap were huge fun, with singer Georgia Ellery (also violinist in Black Country, New Road, who played later) acting the pop star by doing slinky dancing in a gold lamé dress while hitting Ariana Grande-style high notes, but backed against keyboardist Taylor Skye's jagged, experimental sounds. The Swedish punk-jazz-ravers Viagra Boys were a blast of late-afternoon energy, even if the singer Sebastian Murphy went on about how nice it was to play to young people instead of the usual ageing punks — despite being no spring chicken himself. Warmduscher, south London favourites who tie up disco and rock'n'roll with a general air of debauchery and ill health, were an enjoyably irreverent spectacle, not least because the singer Clams Baker Jr was reminiscent of an Elvis impersonator gone to seed.

From there it was a toss-up between the very different headliners: the two-drummer garage rock attack of the Osees or the floaty art pop of Caroline Polacheck. Luckily the stages were about a minute's walk so you could do both. For this reviewer the Osees won out — so brutally unpretentious and rhythmically intense — although Polacheck's interpretive dance for *So Hot You're Hurting My Feelings* deserved special mention. So ended the ideal day festival: diverse, contained, over in time for bed.

Will Hodgkinson

AMANDA SEARLE



From Magwitch to Miss Havisham, Eddie Izzard plays all the characters in a gruelling adaptation

A duel with Dickens

Eddie Izzard's two-hour version of the classic novel is impressive if relentless, says Clive Davis

theatre

Great Expectations
Garrick, WC2
★★★☆☆

Eddie Izzard has more than enough fans to sell out the Garrick for this six-week run. If you're an admirer, you won't need any encouragement to catch the comedian's latest self-imposed endurance test, performing a version of Charles Dickens's novel, adapted by Eddie's brother Mark, which lasts some two hours.

If you're a neutral, as I am, be warned that it's an evening which has its longueurs as well as its charms. Those of us who congratulated ourselves on getting through all or part of Ruth Wilson's 24-hour performance in *The Second Woman* at the Young Vic earlier this month will have to acknowledge that we're mere beginners compared with Izzard (who now also uses the name Suzy, along with female pronouns). To be able to memorise a text as capacious as Dickens's tale of ambition, class and thwarted love is almost as extraordinary as spending weeks running multiple marathons for charity, another of Izzard's many achievements.

The comic embarked on this project after disclosing that, thanks to dyslexia, she had never read a classic work of literature. So Izzard made amends by recording an audiobook of *Great Expectations*. Then came this venture. (There's talk of applying similar treatment to *Hamlet* next.) As someone who can't even remember my partner's phone number, I'm reluctant to carp. But impressive though this show is as a feat of memory, the relentless pace in Selina Cadell's production becomes a nagging distraction. An awful lot of incident and colour is crammed into Dickens's tale; watching Izzard reproduce it is akin to listening to an audiobook turned up to double speed.

Sporting a raffish black frock coat, short skirt and knee-high boots, Izzard drops in some idiosyncratic touches, scribbling manically with an invisible quill, trundling here and there like a stagecoach. I'm not sure, though, that Izzard is a strong enough actor to bring such a multifarious cast of characters to life.

Izzard doesn't get much help from Tom Piper's set. Apart from sensuous red velvet curtains — a vivid contrast to distressed white drapes evoking Miss Havisham's desiccated inner sanctum — there's little to hold the eye. And if the lighting takes on a sinister aura during the scenes with the old spinster, there's little variation elsewhere. Eliza Thompson's fragments of music provide discreet punctuation. This text, though, needs a bolder scattering of exclamation marks.

To July 1, eddieizzard.com

classical

Eight Songs for a Mad King
Wigmore Hall, W1
★★☆☆☆

Since its 1969 premiere, the list of necessities for Peter Maxwell Davies's usually unnerving music-theatre classic *Eight Songs for a Mad King* have included masked musicians trapped in a cage, a percussionist with a jungle of kit, and a screeching, slithering baritone vividly conveying George III's disordered mind. What hasn't been expected, until now, has been the Hanoverian king's portrayal by a woman, and one of Jamaican heritage.

Elaine Mitchener — singer, composer, dancer, fearless specialist in experimental music — secured Maxwell Davies's approval for the gender switch before he died seven years ago. No one, however, can perform *Eight Songs* overnight. The voice's range has to be forcibly extended. Notes and screams must be memorised. How maddening, then, that all the work Mitchener put into this late-night account with the ensemble Apartment House produced such a muted result.

Difficulties rained down. The small platform was too crowded with sprawling percussion, grand piano, and the rest for the piece's theatre elements to properly flourish. The grabbing and smashing of the ensemble's violin? Barely visible, and no shock at all. The soloist's howling exit backstage? Similarly feeble. One core problem was the timbre of Mitchener's voice, rarely forceful enough to vault over the musicians' squawks and zany pastiches. Audience members at the front might have caught most of the words of Randolph Stow's libretto. Those towards the back? Not a chance.

There was also often something askew with Mitchener's delivery, both physical and vocal. She was either too mannered in her effects or, conversely, too ordinary. In either case, the presence she needed to dominate proceedings was lacking; part of the price paid, perhaps, for the exuberant rough-house of Simon Limbrick's percussion and the rest of Anton Lukoszevieze's musicians. As for the performance's resonance in a Britain struggling with "the legacy of imperialism and enslavement", that was something you read in the programme note, rather than absorbed from the stage. Audience cheers, I should note, rang out at the end.

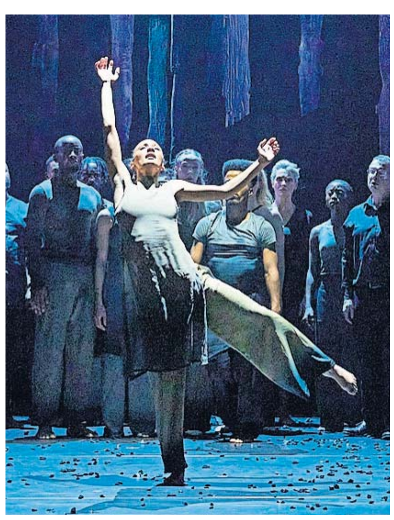
Geoff Brown

dance

Requiem
Grand, Leeds
★★★★★

Any scepticism I had about watching Mozart's Requiem turned into a dance piece was swept away within five minutes of this stunning double bill, a wonderfully ambitious intercontinental collaboration between Opera North and Phoenix Dance Theatre in Leeds, and Cape Town Opera and Jazzart Dance Theatre in South Africa. I will go further. I cannot remember ever being so moved by Mozart's deathbed masterpiece.

Dane Hurst, the director and choreographer, says his starting point was personal grief during the Covid pandemic. That suggests a morbid approach, and indeed there are movements where you feel you are watching sufferers in their last throes. Sometimes, too, when the music falls silent, you hear the dancers gulping for breath — another poignant evocation of that tragic period.



Yasmina Patel dances in Requiem

Elsewhere, however, Hurst conveys religious consolation, even hope, by using the solo singers (Ellie Laugharne, Ann Taylor, Mongezi Mosoaka, Simon Shibambu) and the chorus, grouped at the back of the stage or the sides, as something like guardian angels. They watch over and physically comfort the dancers in their most anguished moments, then finally beckon them to a different realm.

That may sound sentimental, but the effect is anything but. The dancers' movements are athletic, assertive and vivid, and so is the singing and playing. The Opera North orchestra sound punchy under Garry Walker's direction, and the chorus's singing is full-blooded and incisive. Great news that the Requiem is being filmed for BBC4.

The double bill's second half, *After Tears*, acts as a half-hour sequel. We are now in South Africa, and although the piece includes one solemn spoken incantation to ancestral spirits in the Sesotho language, the mood is celebratory and the choreography becomes increasingly exuberant.

The choral and orchestral score, by the South African composer Neo Muyanga, is charming rather than profound, but ideally serves the combined ensembles of dancers — 16 of them, whooping as they leap, and surely harnessing enough energy to power a small national grid.

Richard Morrison

To June 4, operanorth.co.uk

Succession's references decoded

Can you predict the ending from the show's literary nods to Dickens and Eliot? Susie Goldsbrough tries

Jesse Armstrong is a well-read fella, as every *Succession* fan knows. Behind all the power suits and private jets and tech-bro jabber, you can feel the literary nerd at work (and nerd is the word: in a New Yorker profile in 2021 Armstrong could be found kicking back with John Carey's *A Little History of Poetry* and the short stories of Jean Stafford). The show ransacks Dickens and TS Eliot and, of course, Shakespeare. You can feel it in the baroquely blasphemous, cod-Falstaffian language ("Buckle up f***lehead" etc) and the court power struggles of the plot. Chekhov and Ibsen wink from behind the paranoid drawing room theatre of all those gruesome penthouse parties and corporate away days. "This is not f***ing Charles Dickens world," Tom snaps at Greg in series two — but Tom, as usual, is wrong. *Succession* is already a classic worthy of the canon, much like Dickens.

The thing about famous books is that we know how they end. Is it possible, then, to look at *Succession*'s literary influences to work out what will happen in tonight's finale? Of course this is a flippant exercise: it's a story to be told, not a nut to be cracked. Still, Armstrong and his team are the most controlled and deliberate writers. Every allusion serves a purpose. Every reference is, in a sense, a clue.

"Life, friends, is boring," John Berryman declares in *Dream Song 14*, a phrase you could imagine neatly stitched onto the Roy family crest. Berryman, the shaggy, drunken, wounded bear of 20th-century American poetry, might hold the key to the finale, for he wrote its title. Armstrong, who studied American literature at Manchester University and spent a year as a student in Massachusetts, has a taste for his mad and sprawling 385-poem sequence, *The Dream Songs*. From one in particular, *Dream Song 29*, he has mined the title of every season's final episode.

You can see why. *The Dream Songs* evoke the political chaos and terror of modern America, a place where "incredible panic rules" and "drinks are boiling. Iced/ drinks are boiling" — think of how the country tumbled out of control on *Succession*'s election night, of the firebombs and the fear. A hymn to daddy issues, the *Songs* are narrated by a middle-aged, morose figure called Henry whose life, like Berryman's, seems to have been blighted by this father's suicide. After that tragedy, even if "he had a hundred years/ & more, & weeping, sleepless … Henry could not make good." The Roy siblings, dazed and dulled by their own father's abrupt death yet still manically seeking his approval, can probably relate.



Kendall (Jeremy Strong), Shiv (Sarah Snook) and Roman Roy (Kieran Culkin) in Succession. Below: Lukas Matsson (Alexander Skarsgard). Below right: Tom Wambsgans (Matthew Macfadyen) and Cousin Greg (Nicholas Braun). The final episode of Succession is on Sky Atlantic tonight at 9pm and available to stream now on Now



> **"Chekhov and Ibsen wink from behind those gruesome penthouse parties**

In *Song 29* Henry is ravaged by the suspicion that he has killed someone, by a face that "a thousand years would fail to blur the still profiled reproach of". His horror mirrors Kendall's when he wakes the morning after his Chappaquiddick moment at the end of series one, having accidentally drowned a teenage waiter. The title of that episode, *Nobody Is Ever Missing*, comes from the final line of the poem, as Henry fruitlessly tries to identify his victim: "Often he reckons, in the dawn, them up./ Nobody is ever missing."

Kendall did actually kill someone but he might as well not have for all the consequences he faced for it. What do you do with a guilt whose existence you can barely acknowledge?

The title of the series two finale, in which Kendall assassinates his father on live TV, comes from an imagined funeral for Henry's victim, at which "All the bells say: too late. This is not for tears;/ thinking." Beneath the despair there is a fleeting defiance. Your pain is useless, so don't cry — strategise. So begins Kendall's (doomed) third-season attempt at standing up for himself. *All the Bells Say*, the title of the season three finale, is both a nod to the wedding it's set at and an ominous reach across Berryman's colon. The siblings have banded together to unseat their father but Tom's betrayal means the attempted coup comes, inevitably, "too late".

So what secrets is Berryman hissing with this final title, *With Open Eyes*? The phrase appears in the poem just after Henry's vision of the reproachful face of his victim: "Ghastly/ with open eyes, he attends, blind." Trailing it is the same kind of ironic undercut that came with *All the Bells Say*. Ignore the seductive implications of clear vision and honesty — the key word here is "blind". In the show's final episode the Roys and their acolytes may pretend, perhaps even attempt, to confront their sins, but Armstrong, via Berryman, assures us that they will fail. Blind men cannot see. If the title of *Succession*'s finale makes any promise, it is that for Kendall, Shiv and Roman there will be no absolution.

Pay attention too to Berryman's own literary forebears. Blind eyes in brutal literature always signal Oedipus, the hero of Sophocles's play who unknowingly murders his father, marries his mother and responds to the bad news by gouging out his own eyes. He is the original tragic hero, treacherous son and Freudian muse. "You must be Oedipus Roy," is how Rhea greets Kendall in season two. "I'm teasing." But she isn't. Forget *With Open Eyes*: Armstrong might as well have called this finale "In Case You Hadn't Noticed, *Succession* Is a Tragedy".

Which brings us back to Shakespeare, whose tragic heroes throng the corridors of ATN's HQ. "He's playing it like he's Hamlet," one *Succession* writer has said of Jeremy Strong's performance as Kendall. Strong himself spoke about *Richard III* in the build-up to this season, while in the most recent episode his apologetic funeral oration smacked of Mark Antony to Ewan Roy's Brutus. Not forgetting, of course, *King Lear*, which isn't so much an influence on *Succession*, it is *Succession*: the story of a peevish, dying despot who divides his kingdom between his feckless children and, in doing so, starts a war. What can Shakespearean tragedy tell us about how *Succession* will end? With death (be it figurative or literal) of course, but, more than that, with catastrophic violence. Hamlet is murdered with a poisoned sword; Lear's children poison, hang and destroy each other.

What about suicide? With the exception of *Romeo and Juliet* (which is really more a twisted romance than a tragedy), Shakespeare's tragic heroes rarely get the luxury of death by their own hand. It's too intentional, too neat. But *Succession* is obsessed with self-annihilation: think of Kendall floating facedown in the pool at the end of series three, of Tom standing at the edge of his penthouse balcony at the tailgate party as his marriage bleeds out, of Roman hurling himself into the crowd of angry protesters, desperate and spitting. *The Dream Songs* too are preoccupied with suicide — "If I had to do the whole thing over again/ I wouldn't" — and Berryman himself leapt to his death from the Washington Avenue Bridge, Minneapolis, onto the frozen banks of the Mississippi. The obsession makes sense: even if he does not succeed, a tragic hero's impulse is always to self-destroy. As Kendall has grown ever more inflexible in pursuit of the crown this season, you wonder what he might do rather than face yet another failure.

However figurative or literal, and whatever the means, if Shakespeare has anything to do with it, there will be no one left alive at the end of *Succession*. None of the Roy children will triumph. *Hamlet* closes with a blond-haired Norwegian prince, Fortinbras, taking the kingdom — remind you of anyone? The final words of Lear, meanwhile, go to the Duke of Albany, the weedy, cuckolded son-in-law:

"The weight of this sad time we must obey;
Speak what we feel, not what we ought to say.
The oldest hath borne most: we that are young
Shall never see so much, nor live so long."



Shiv may think she has bagged the role of Matsson's CEO, but as the just gods of *Succession* would remind us — no deal is ever really closed. Perhaps, just perhaps, it is the underlings who will survive this finale. Victory for Tom? Or even, perhaps, Greg. But the truth is, at the end of a tragedy, no one cares much about the future. Prepare for a massacre tonight — and then to mourn. For when it comes to prestige TV, we will never again see so much, nor live so long.

times2

Your weekday brain boost

More puzzles
Pages 14-16

Every day, Monday to Thursday, a page of extra puzzles to give your brain an extended workout

Samurai easy

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length.

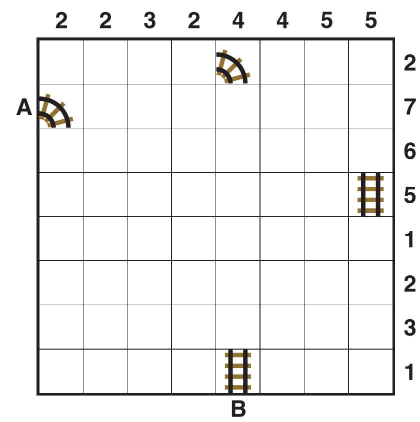
6		1				4	5	9				8	5	1				3		6
8					1										6	1				4
4			2				1	3					6				2	7		1
	4		1			6	2						1	8	2		5		6	
				2	7			4				2			3	7				
		2		6				1				4				8		2		
		3		4					8	4	2					2		9		
	5								3		5					5			4	
					2										8					
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		8		3					7	2	3					1		3		
		5		6				1				6				8		4		
				9	1			4				1			4	7				
	4		5		2	7	6						4	8			1		2	
6		4	8				7					5	1				9			8
9				7	3										6					4
7		3				9	2	6				4	7	3				9		6

Sudoku super fiendish

		8						
2			6	3				
		6	8				1	3
	2		7	9		6		1
				5				
	7		3	6		2		8
		9	1				6	4
3			5	7				
		1						

Train Tracks

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.



Killer deadly

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

7		13		24				24
12	20							
			12		22	26		
7			29					10
25					18	29		
9			15				17	
								24
33		29						

Futoshiki

Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

```
□   □   □   □ > □
^
□   □   □   1   4

□   □   □   □   □
        v   ^
□   □   □ > □   □
v
□ > □   □   □   □
```

Suko

Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

Circles: 15, 15, 21, 26

Colour totals: 11, 14, 20

Solve Times puzzles interactively with same-day solutions at thetimes.co.uk

Codeword

Every letter in the crossword-style grid, right, has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded.

20	16	10	12	4	11	■	2	21	15	15	17	14
4	■	21	■	23	■	20	■	10	■	8	■	8
11	4	26	9	17	4	15	■	25 D	19	21	12	21
8	■	13	■	19	■	4	■	17	■	19	■	24
■	7	16	19	22	■	12	8	12	8	26	11	17
11	■	8	■	■	■	8 E	■	8	■	■	■	26
21	20	11	19	21	22	■	21	26	2	18	17	19
15	■	■	■	2	■	9	■	■	■	8	■	22
4	26	8	19	11	4	21	■	17	26	2	8	■
20	■	26	■	19	■	3	■	2	■	6	■	4
12	4	25	5 G	8	■	8	1	18	21	15	8	25
21	■	17	■	20	■	25	■	19	■	8	■	15
26	8	14	8	20	11	■	24	8	25	25	15	8

A B C ~~D~~ ~~E~~ F ~~G~~ H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				G			E					

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
											D	

Mini Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x2 box contains the digits 1 to 6

		1			
			5	4	
	5	4		2	
			4		3
1			3		
	3				

Solutions in tomorrow's Times2

Thursday's solutions

SAMURAI

2	6	8	7	1	5	9	4	3				8	6	5	7	1	3	2	4	9
1	5	3	6	4	9	7	2	8				1	9	4	2	8	5	3	6	7
7	4	9	3	8	2	6	5	1				3	7	2	4	6	9	5	8	1
6	7	2	5	3	8	4	1	9				9	8	1	6	2	4	7	5	3
9	8	5	4	6	1	3	7	2				4	5	6	1	3	7	8	9	2
3	1	4	9	2	7	8	6	5				2	3	7	5	9	8	4	1	6
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5	2	7	8	9	6	1	3	4	8	7	6	5	2	9	3	4	6	1	7	8
						4	5	2	7	6	9	3	8	1						
						8	1	9	5	4	3	2	6	7						
						6	7	3	1	8	2	9	5	4						
9	3	1	4	8	2	7	6	5	4	3	8	1	9	2	6	5	3	8	4	7
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3	7	6	2	1	8	5	9	4				2	6	7	3	1	9	4	5	8
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8	9	4	3	5	7	6	1	2				9	4	3	8	7	5	6	2	1
2	4	3	8	9	5	1	7	6				3	2	9	5	8	6	1	7	4
7	6	8	1	4	3	2	5	9				6	5	1	9	4	7	3	8	2
5	1	9	7	2	6	4	8	3				7	8	4	2	3	1	9	6	5

SUKO

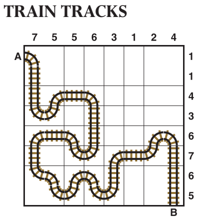
2	5	3
1	4	9
8	6	7

Circles: 12, 21, 19, 26

MINI SUDOKU

5	2	6	4	1	3
3	4	1	6	2	5
2	3	4	1	5	6
1	6	5	2	3	4
4	5	2	3	6	1
6	1	3	5	4	2

TRAIN TRACKS



FUTOSHIKI

```
2   4 > 3   5   1

5   3   4   1   2
            ^
1   5   2   3 < 4
    v
3   2   1   4 < 5
^   v
4   1   5   2 < 3
```

SUDOKU

1	5	3	8	6	9	4	2	7
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KILLER

5	8	3	7	4	1	9	6	2
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CODEWORD

■	G	■	U	■	G	■	E	■	J	■	O	■
Q	U	A	N	D	A	R	Y	■	O	U	R	S
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S	T	R	U	C	K	■	B	A	R	K	E	D
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Down and out in a council estate in Tottenham

Carol Midgley TV review



60 Days on the Estates
Channel 4
★★★☆☆

Midsomer Murders
ITV1
★★★☆☆

Ed Stafford has revealed that he was embarrassed about leaving the scene sharpish when in **60 Days on the Estates** he met a masked man who produced a machete, then a handgun. Well, I doubt anyone would have lingered when one wrong word could have earned you a hole in your head. But wasn't this exactly the kind of money shot Stafford needed? I don't know what he was hoping for when he met a chap with "underworld connections" down a dark alley to talk about gang warfare, but I doubt it was a chat about Spurs and a flask of tea.

Stafford's mode of documentary-making is fresh, immersing himself in his subject by living with the community for 60 days, in this case the "notorious" Northumberland Park council estate in Tottenham. But this series doesn't feel as distinctive as previous ones, such as when he lived with travellers and the homeless on the streets. In the latter case, he surprised me by agreeing with a homeless man that sleeping rough was much easier than people think. It was an insight you don't get in your average documentary.

In this case I expected him to visit the estate and find poverty, knife culture, depression, lives ruined by drugs and that's precisely what happened. The "extra" ingredient, namely him renting a room with a family, barely featured in the telling. We didn't see him having meals with them or even interviewing them, just Stafford waking in his box room and opening the blinds semi-naked.

Where it was stronger was in showing the ingrained, weary despair of people such as Dionne, who had six children in a one-bedroom flat infested with black mould, which was making one of the children struggle to breathe while the council did nothing. Phil, a drug addict who had been drinking since the age of ten, pawning his phone for £50 and paying more in interest to keep his guitar there than the £80 it cost in the first place was a pitiful sight, a vicious circle playing out indefinitely. "I'm waiting for the old people's home, then pop me clogs and off I go," he said. He was 45.

CHANNEL 4



Ed Stafford spent 60 days on the Northumberland Park estate

Last night's **Midsomer Murders** should have been broadcast in January but was bumped for Tom Bradby's interview with Prince Harry. So ITV1 swapped one load of backstabbing, am-dram histrionics for another. Midsomer's kind was far more entertaining, albeit in its knowingly corny, OTT way. It was a revenge serial murder story set against an am-dram production of *The Pirates of Penzance* in which DS Jamie Winter (Nick Hendrix, wearing eyeliner!) performed *A Policeman's Lot is Not a Happy One* and found he quite liked it.

The murders weren't quite as fiendish as in other episodes, but at least Kevin Whately (as Jeremy) nearly got killed in a *Pit and the Pendulum*-type torture. As the blade descended and Barnaby and Winter took an age to untie him, didn't you think: "Why not just use a knife?"

There was worse horror to come when Barnaby headed to the bedroom with a Victorian policeman's uniform and helmet and suggested a spot of role play to Sarah. No offence, but I'd rather watch the others suffer slow death by poisoning.

Radio choice
Ben Dowell



What Are the Railways For?
Radio 4, 8pm

As the government and business community continue to grapple with the future of Britain's railways, reporter Daniel Brittain examines the point of them. The question, he says, is rarely asked because policy tends to be made in the wake of a crisis or disaster or imminent removal of a franchise from a failing operator. He travels to Greater Manchester, meeting people on trains, people who want to be on trains and those who run the railways, to understand how the industry has changed, and what the place of rail in Britain's society, economy and culture might be.

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Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app
6.00am Rosie Wright and Luke Jones with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Mornings on Times Radio **1.00pm** Mariella Frostrup **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive **7.00** Pienaar and Friends. Debate **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay **10.00** Carole Walker **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz
6.30am The Nicki Chapman Breakfast Show **9.30** Gary Davies **12.00** Tony Blackburn: Sounds of Soul **2.00pm** Richie Anderson **4.00** Steve Wright. Featuring interviews with Craig David and Andrew Ridgeley **7.00** The Best of Radio 2's Piano Room. Top artists perform with the BBC Concert Orchestra **9.00** The Blues Show with Huey Morgan. With the Queen of Memphis Soul Carla Thomas **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation **12.00** OJ Borg **2.30am** One Hit Wonders with OJ Borg **3.00** Sounds of the 90s with Fearne Cotton (r) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz
6.30am Breakfast
Petroc Trelawny presents. Including **7.00**, **8.00** News. **7.30**, **8.30** News headlines
9.00 Essential Classics
Tom McKinney presents music and features
12.00 Composer of the Week: Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757)
Kate Molleson examines the life and career of the Italian Baroque composer, beginning as he takes his first job, working for his father Alessandro among the musicians of the court chapel in Naples. D Scarlatti (Sonata in D, K 96; Sonata in D minor, K 9; Sonata in E, K 20; *Antra, valles, di vo plaudeant*; Sinfonia in C; Sinfonia in G; Sonata in A minor, K 109; Sonata in A, K 279; and Sonata in G, K 425)
1.00pm Live Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert
Martin Handley presents a live recital from London's Wigmore Hall with the pianist Mariam Batsashvili performing Chopin, Schubert and Liszt. Chopin (Ballade No 1 in G minor, Op 23); Liszt (*Après une lecture du Dante* from *Années de pèlerinage, deuxième année*, Italie S161; and Hungarian Rhapsody No 14 in F minor, S244); and Schubert (Impromptu in F minor, D935, No 1)
2.00 Afternoon Concert
Penny Gore introduces concert and studio recordings by BBC performers and by groups across Europe. Alain Altinoglu conducts the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra in Ravel, and Chausson. The BBC Philharmonic plays music by Pierné, and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales plays Verdi. Ensemble amacordplus performs a number of motets from composers within the Bach family, and from others of the period in Germany. Walton (*Façade — Popular Song*); Ravel (*Jeux d'eau*); JM Bach (*Sei, lieber Tag, willkommen*); Erlebach (*Wer bin ich, Herr*); Haydn (Concerto for Organ, Viola & Strings in C, P 55: III. Prestissimo); Pierné (*Ramuntcho* — suite No 1; and Overture); Verdi (*La forza del destino* — Overture); Mussorgsky/Ravel (*Pictures at an Exhibition*); Schein (*Ist nicht Ephraim mein teurer Sohn*; and *Nun danket alle Gott, motet*); Chopin (Polonaise in F sharp minor, Op 44); Chausson (Poeme, Op 25); and Schütz (*Ich weiss, dass mein Erlöser lebt*; and *Herr, auf Dich traue ich, Psalm 71*)
4.30 New Generation Artists
Helen Charlston sings Vaughan Williams's *Four Last Songs*, and the pianist Tom Borrow performs Debussy. Rebecca Clarke (*Down by the Salley Gardens*); Vaughan Williams (*Four Last Songs*); and Debussy (*Préludes from Book 2*, No 8 — *Ondine*, No.10 — *Canope* and No 12 — *Feux d'artifice*)
5.00 In Tune
Music and arts news
7.00 Classical Mixtape
A selection of classical favourites
7.30 Radio 3 in Concert
Lahav Shani conducts at the Rotterdam Philharmonic's Memorial Concert for the Bombardment of Rotterdam. Presented by Fiona Talkington. Mahler (Symphony No 2 in C minor — *Resurrection*)
9.00 Ultimate Calm
Olafur Arnalds creates a soothing soundtrack reflective of sunset with music by Meredith Monk, Nkeiru Okoye and Oliver Coates
10.00 Music Matters
Tom Service talks to the conductor and composer Ivan Fischer ahead of his appearances with his ensemble at the BBC Proms. Plus, musicians and composers including violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja talk about the music of Gyorgy Ligeti, whose centenary will be celebrated this year (r)
10.45 The Essay: Charles Aznavour in Five Songs
A look at the legacy of the singer through five of his songs
11.00 Night Tracks
12.30am Through the Night (r)

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz
5.30am News Briefing
5.43 Prayer for the Day
5.45 Farming Today
5.58 Tweet of the Day (r)
6.00 Today
With Mishal Husain and Justin Webb
9.00 Start the Week
Tom Sutcliffe asks what Dickens would say about the world today at the Hay Festival
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 Book of the Week: Pathogenesis — How Germs Made History
By Jonathan Kennedy (1/5)
10.00 Woman's Hour
A discussion on lying
11.00 Blood on the Dance Floor
While peace transforms the country, the twists continue in the story (6/6)
11.30 The Boy in the Peking Hotel
The story of a British family imprisoned for two years in Mao's China
12.01pm (LW) Shipping Forecast
12.04 You and Yours
1.00 The World at One
1.45 Oliver Burkeman's Inconvenient Truth
Oliver Burkeman explores how convenience has warped humankind's existence (1/5)
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 This Cultural Life
John Wilson talks to leading cultural figures about their life and work (9/12) (r)
3.00 Round Britain Quiz
Val McDermid and Alan McCredie take on Stuart Maconie and Adele Geras (8/12)
3.30 The Food Programme (r)
4.00 The Sky's the Limit?
Jonathan Glancey considers the future of airports in light of the climate crisis
4.30 The Digital Human
The potential impact of advances in technology on the human character (2/6)
5.00 PM
5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Unbelievable Truth
With Alan Davies, Holly Walsh, Angela Barnes and Henning Wehn (1/6)
7.00 The Archers
Helen puts her foot down
7.15 Front Row
8.00 What are the Railways For?
Daniel Brittain asks what Britain's railways are for. ***See Radio Choice***
8.30 Analysis
Jon Yates looks at the schemes that have worked to reduce knife crime (1/9)
9.00 Living With AI
Professor of Computer Science Stuart Russell discusses artificial intelligence (r)
9.30 Start the Week
Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
With Jamie Coomarasamy
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The House of Doors
By Tan Twan Eng (1/10)
11.00 Gaby's Talking Pictures
Gaby Roslin hosts the comedy panel show celebrating the world of movies (1/6) (r)
11.30 The Spark
Helen Lewis meets Rory O'Connor, author of *When it Is Darkest* (1/4) (r)
12.00 News and Weather
12.30am Book of the Week: Pathogenesis — How Germs Made History (1/5) (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only
8.00am Round the Horne **8.30** Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful **9.00** The Write Stuff **9.30** Double Income, No Kids Yet **10.00** Sorry, Boys, You Failed the Audition **10.45** The New Elizabethans **11.00** The Events at Black Tor **11.30** The Wolf Far Hence **12.00** One Two Three Four — The Beatles in Time **12.15pm** The Citadel **12.30** Alexei Sayle's Imaginary Sandwich Bar **1.00** Round the Horne **1.30** Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful **2.00** The Write Stuff **2.30** Double Income, No Kids Yet **3.00** Sorry, Boys, You Failed the Audition **3.45** The New Elizabethans **4.00** The Events at Black Tor **4.30** The Wolf Far Hence **5.00** One Two Three Four — The Beatles in Time **5.15** The Citadel **5.30** Alexei Sayle's Imaginary Sandwich Bar **6.00** Round the Horne **6.30** Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful **7.00** The Write Stuff. With Andrew Motion and Sue Limb **7.30** Double Income, No Kids Yet. Comedy with David Tennant. Last in the series **8.00** Radiolab. The programme explores when things happen again and again **8.55** Inheritance Tracks. Adrian Dunbar picks two songs with special meaning for him **9.00** Mastertapes. The making of Eliza Carthy's album *Anglicana*. From 2013 **9.30** Rebus: Death Is Not the End. By Ian Rankin. From 2003 **10.00** Comedy Club: Just a Minute. With Gyles Brandreth, Jan Ravens, Tony Hawks and Rachel Parris. Last in the series **10.30** And Now in Colour. Comedy sketches with Tim Firth. From 1990 **11.00** The News Quiz. Andy Zaltzman hosts a special edition recorded on stage at the Hay Festival **11.30** The Skivers

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909
5.00am The Big Green Money Show **5.30** The Big Green Money Show **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Adrian Chiles **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **9.00** 5 Live Sport: 5 Live Cricket **10.00** Colin Murray **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz
5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** Breakfast with Laura Woods **10.00** Sam Matterface and Simon Jordan **3.00pm** Live League One Play-off Final: Barnsley v Sheffield Wednesday (Kick-off **3.00**). Commentary from Wembley Stadium **6.00** Kick Off **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only
5.00am James Max **6.30** David Bull **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **9.00** The Talk **10.00** Tom Newton Dunn **11.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

6 Music
Digital only
5.00am Emily Pilbeam **7.30** Gemma Cairney **10.30** Nemone **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Huw Stephens **7.00** Loud and Proud with Skin & Grove **9.00** Big Joanie **12.00** Pet Shop Boys at the BBC **1.00am** Pet Shop Boys Live **2.00** pet shop boys, documentary **4.00** The Pet Shop Boys Playlist

Virgin Radio
Digital only
6.30am The Chris Evans Breakfast Show with cinch **10.00** Steve Denyer **2.00pm** Tim Cocker **6.00** Bam **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz
6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** Aled Jones **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

television & radio

Viewing Guide
Ben Dowell

Succession
Sky Atlantic/Now, 2am/9pm

Top pick

And now, the end is near, but who will face the final curtain with a smile on their chops, and maybe full control of a legacy media giant? Perhaps understandably HBO is not allowing anyone to see advance previews of this last episode. What we do know is that at the end of last week things weren't looking too rosy for the Roy boys Kendall and Roman. The chilling, shark-eyed president-in-waiting Jeryd Mencken looked to have reneged on his agreement to block Lukas Matsson's GoJo deal, with (the pregnant) Shiv manoeuvring herself into the right-winger's orbit and securing the promise of a job of CEO in Matsson's new empire. This episode finds Kendall and Shiv shoring up their opposing interests before a vote by the board with Logan's old guard seeming rather keen on a lucrative retirement. Yet GoJo's dodgy subscriber figures could still throw a late spanner in the works. Either way, Kendall wants to be top dog, and after his assured funeral oration he is looking the most match-fit. Roman's breakdown in front of many of the western world's most powerful people had become a meme and he was last seen vainly battling protesters who were furious about the election. "Morons," Roman shouted. Which is rather what his dad thought of him and his brother. Whatever the outcome, in the showrunner Jesse Armstrong we trust. He hasn't let us down so far. Goodness, we'll miss this show.

Springwatch
BBC2, 7.30pm

The lambs are in the fields, the leaves are out and the watchers are back with three more weeks of live programming. They're at RSPB Arne in Dorset, and the team will also be exploring locations in north Wales and Anglesey. The first prerecorded film shows the BBC correspondent Frank Gardner heading to Cumbria for a sighting of the hen harrier. Every programme will also feature the "Mindful Moment", a 90-second film of "pure nature" as the BBC calls it, without music or voiceover, that allows viewers to immerse themselves in sound and pictures.

Early

BBC1
6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Morning Live **10.00** Rip Off Britain. The team investigates a dubious meet-and-greet company **10.45** Fraud Squad. A council worker who spent £200,000 of public funds on horse riding and holidays **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer. Visits to properties in Staffordshire, Rochdale and Hertfordshire (r) (AD) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt. Christina Trevanion and the experts head to Newark Antiques Fair (AD) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.20** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.30** The Repair Shop. Items in for repair include a dilapidated granddaughter clock (r) (AD) **2.00** Money for Nothing. Jay Blades finds a drop-leaf table, a sideboard and two chairs to upcycle (r) **3.00** Escape to the Country. Alistair Appleton heads to his home county of West Sussex (AD) **3.45** Garden Rescue. New series. Charlie Dimmock and Chris Hull are in Marlborough to design a courtyard garden **4.30** Clean It, Fix It. New series. A team of cleaners and DIY experts head to London to help tidy and organise a home **5.15** Pointless. Quiz with Alexander Armstrong and Ria Lina **6.00** Scam Interceptors. A team of ethical hackers hunt down cyber criminals (r) **6.30** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.50** BBC Regional News; Weather

BBC2
6.45am Great Coastal Railway Journeys (r) (AD) **7.15** Bargain Hunt (r) (AD) **8.00** Sign Zone: Coast to Coast Food Festival (r) (SL) **8.30** Designing the Hebrides (r) (AD, SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **1.00pm** Impossible. Rick Edwards hosts the quiz (r) **1.45** Eggheads. Quiz show hosted by Jeremy Vine (r) **2.15** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. The chef's tour reaches the south coast of England (r) (AD) **2.45** A Countryside Summer. Chris Packham and Megan McCubbin visit Walney Island (r) (AD) **3.15** Big Cats About the House. Giles Clark is overwhelmed by the enormity of the task he has taken on (r) (AD) **4.15** Back in Time for the Corner Shop. A family of five works in a corner shop to reveal how such businesses have changed over the course of the past century. With Sara Cox and Polly Russell (r) (AD) **5.15** Flog It! Experts Will Axon and Christina Trevanion assess items at Ragley Hall in Warwickshire, including a Polynesian paddle and an 18th century drinking glass (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Edith Bowman, Fern Brady, Will Kirk and Martin Lewis (r) **6.30** Great Coastal Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo visits Middlesbrough's Transporter Bridge (AD)

ITV1
6.00am Good Morning Britain. A lively mix of news and current affairs, plus health, entertainment and lifestyle features **9.00** Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories and gossip. Presented by Lorraine Kelly **10.00** This Morning. A mix of showbiz chat, lifestyle features, advice and competitions **12.30pm** Loose Women. Showbiz interviews and studio discussion from a female perspective **1.45** ITV News; Weather **1.50** Regional News; Weather **1.55 FILM: Smallfoot (PG, 2018)** An epic journey ensues when a Yeti stumbles across a human being — but is banished from his snowy home. Animated adventure with the voice of Channing Tatum (AD) **3.45** Tenable. A team of five family members answer questions about top 10 lists, then try to score a perfect 10 in the final round. Presented by Sally Lindsay (r) **4.50** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.50** The Chase. Bradley Walsh hosts as four contestants work as a team to take on one of the ruthless Chasers and secure a cash prize **6.35** Regional News; Weather **6.45** ITV News; Weather

Channel 4
6.00am Countdown. Colin Murray hosts and Vick Hope is in Dictionary Corner (r) **6.40** Cheers (r) **7.40** The King of Queens (r) (AD) **8.30** Frasier (r) (AD) **10.00** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. Henry and Simon meet a man who has collected various items since childhood (r) (AD) **11.00** Couples Come Dine with Me. A trio of couples try to outdo each other in Aberdeen (r) **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown. Cally Beaton is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** A Place in the Sun. A couple from Stockport want a holiday home around the western Dordogne region (r) **4.00** The Great House Giveaway. An accounts manager and a kitchen and bedroom fitter are teamed up to transform a crumbling house (r) **5.00** Sarah Beeny's New Country Lives. New series. The property expert follows plucky country life newbies through the highs, lows and laughs, as they embrace their fresh starts in beautiful rural retreats (AD) **6.00** The Simpsons. Homer accidentally declares himself bankrupt, while Bart and Lisa con a delivery man into giving them a large amount of cardboard boxes (r) (AD) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Ethan may have found a way to make all of Sienna's dreams come true, and Felix and Warren cannot see eye to eye (r) (AD)

Channel 5
6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues **12.15pm** Alexis Conran. The actor, writer and broadcaster examines the important stories of the day, getting viewers' opinions and views on them **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Rose and Mali cannot reach a compromise, Justin is feeling the pressure of his impending court hearing and things are proving too much for Xander (r) (AD) **2.15 FILM: Mystery 101 — An Education in Murder (PG, TVM, 2020)** A writer's research prompts the police to revisit a famous murder case. Mystery thriller starring Jill Wagner **4.00** Paul Martin's Antiques Showdown. Paul is in and around Lancashire as he takes on expert Paul Hayes with the pair assessing antiques and collectibles brought by members of the public to a valuation hub **5.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Documentary following Brits who moved to Spain (r) **5.55** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. Brahms & Liszt Challenge hope to take home the rolling cash prize (r) **6.30** Eggheads. The Lower League Lads try their luck against the experts (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



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7PM – 11PM

BBC1
7.00 **The One Show** Jermaine Jenas and Anita Rani present the usual mix of topical stories and showbiz chat

7.30 **EastEnders** Emotions on the square are high as the nurse confirms Lola is near the end of her life (AD)

8.00 **RHS Chelsea Flower Show** Sophie Raworth and Joe Swift look back at the highlights of the Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show

9.00 **Steeltown Murders** Through ground-breaking, familial DNA technology, the team in 2002 are given a breakthrough in their investigation and manage to locate the killer. *See Viewing Guide* (3/4) (AD)

10.00 **BBC News at Ten**

10.20 **BBC Regional News and Weather**

10.30 **Have I Got a Bit More News for You** Steph McGovern hosts an extended episode of the satirical quiz show with the broadcaster Carol Vorderman and the comedian Nabil Abdulrashid joining team captains Paul Merton and Ian Hislop (7/10)

11.15 **Radio 1's Big Weekend Best Bits** Arielle Free and Jack Saunders present highlights of the weekend festival from Dundee's Camperdown Country Park, including headline performances by the 1975 and Lewis Capaldi. Plus, appearances from Raye, Anne-Marie, Becky Hill, the Jonas Brothers, Jess Glynne, Flo and Wet Leg

BBC2
7.00 **Digging for Britain: The Greatest Discoveries** Professor Alice Roberts visits archaeological digs around the country (1/4) (r) (AD)

7.30 **Springwatch** New series. Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan present from their new base at RSPB Arne in Dorset, while Iolo Williams explores the neighbouring Purbeck Heaths. *See Viewing Guide* (1/12)

8.30 **University Challenge** The grand final of the student quiz. Last in the series. *See Viewing Guide*

9.00 **Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland** A look at the growth of paramilitary organisations in the early 1970s with killings, explosions, intimidation and street disorder becoming widespread — with devastating and often lasting effects. *See Viewing Guide* (2/5) (AD)

10.00 **Goodfellas (18, 1990)** An Irish-Italian boy from a poor neighbourhood grows up idolising the glamorous lifestyle of the Mafia. Taken under the wing of a mobster, he rises quickly in the world of organised crime. But he soon has to face the realities of murder and treachery, while his involvement in drug deals puts him at risk from both sides of the law. Martin Scorsese's crime drama starring Ray Liotta, Robert De Niro and Joe Pesci. *See Viewing Guide*

ITV1
7.00 **Emmerdale** Manpreet becomes suspicious about Claudette (AD)

7.30 **Coronation Street** As Gemma prepares for her wedding, Billy tries to persuade Paul to attend (AD)

8.00 **Britain's Got Talent** Ant McPartlin and Dec Donnelly host the first live semi-final of the talent contest, welcoming back acts that impressed judges Bruno Tonioli, Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon during the auditions episodes in London and Manchester, in addition to a number of Golden Buzzer acts

10.00 **ITV News at Ten**

10.25 **The 1% Club** Quiz hosted by Lee Mack in which the questions are all about logic and common sense, with 100 contestants having a chance of winning up to £100,000 (6/8) (r) (AD)

11.25 **1989 Liverpool v Arsenal Title Decider — ITV Football Classic** Extended highlights of the memorable match at Anfield, which saw Arsenal needing to win by at least two goals to pip their opponents to the title (r)

Channel 4
7.00 **Channel 4 News**

7.30 **Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It: Brilliant Builds** Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer take a look back at loft conversions (2/5)

8.00 **Sarah Beeny's New Life in the Country** Sarah and Graham measure up an area of lawn for a greenhouse, and take Raffey and Laurie to the International Worm Charming Festival in Blackawton, Devon (7/7) (AD)

9.00 **Rescue: Extreme Medics** The trauma team rush to a 67-year-old who has sustained a life-threatening head injury after falling down a remote hillside while walking with his sister. In Aberdeen, a 62-year-old has been rushed to hospital with a serious chainsaw cut to her arm (AD)

10.00 **First Dates** A beauty queen bricklayer goes looking for love with a bar manager, two students with very different priorities when it comes to conversation try to make a connection, and a financial investigator meets a man who seems to have an answer to everything (5/6) (r) (AD)

11.05 **24 Hours in A&E** A woman is rushed in following a suspected stroke, and another is sent in by her GP with chronic back pain, and doctors worry that she may be suffering an underlying spinal injury (r) (AD)

Channel 5
7.00 **Traffic Cops** A PC is on the lookout for a high-value car stolen from a dealership after being taken for a test drive, while an officer is patrolling on a night shift when he follows a car suspected of being used in house burglary (9/11) (r)

7.55 **5 News Update**

8.00 **Police Interceptors** Officers battle to stop a dangerous driver in a stolen lorry on the A1, but after a successful strike with a heavy-duty stinger, the occupant carries on. Meanwhile, in Sutton-in-Ashfield, firearms cops are forced to use the big red key when a wanted man refuses to open the door

9.00 **Police: Suspect No 1** Detectives investigate after a violent attack on a group of friends on a night out leaves one of them critically injured and fighting for his life in hospital (4/6)

10.00 **Police: Night Shift 999** An altercation in a bar leads to a foot chase for officers through Gloucester city centre, while a 999 caller reports a burglar stealing radiators from unoccupied houses (2/8) (r)

11.05 **999: Critical Condition** A 64 year-old is brought into resus with suspected sepsis. After her horse threw her to the ground, a patient suffered significant nerve damage that could mean she is paralysed (r)

Late

BBC1
12.20am-6.00 BBC News

BBC2
12.20am Sign Zone: Countryfile A visit to a hill farm in Cumbria (r) (SL) **1.15** The Great British Sewing Bee. Twelve sewers take on challenges to give classic designs their own style (r) (AD, SL) **2.15-3.15** Turkey: Empire of Erdogan. A look at the Turkish president's response to an attempted military coup in 2016 (r) (AD, SL)

ITV1
12.30am English Football League Highlights Action from Barnsley v Sheffield Wednesday in the League One play-off final, which came from Wembley Stadium (r) **1.15** Teleshopping **3.00** All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite (r) **4.40** Unwind with ITV. Daily escape **5.35-6.00** Save Money: Good Diet. Last in the (r) (AD, SL)

Channel 4
12.05am Porn King: The Rise & Fall of Ron Jeremy (r) (AD) **1.05** The World's Most Luxurious Holidays (r) (AD) **2.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) **2.50** Grand Designs (r) (AD, SL) **3.45** The Dog House (r) (AD) **4.40** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It: Brilliant Builds (AD) **5.10-6.05** Britain's Scenic Railways (r) (AD)

Channel 5
12.05am Police Interceptors A suspected drug dealer is pursued (r) **1.00** Teleshopping **3.00** Good Girls' Guide to Kinky Sex (r) **3.50** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (r) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** Fireman Sam (r) (SL) **5.45-6.00** Thomas: Big World! Big Adventures! (r) (SL)

Katharine Hepburn: Call Me Kate

Sky Arts/Now, 8pm

Katharine Hepburn almost bursts out of this film as a force of nature, a once-in-a generation talent, a slight eccentric who stood for no nonsense. She answered questions straight and dressed as she wanted, even if it was not the Hollywood way to wear trousers or dungarees when she was starting out. There is something slightly reverential about this film, but there is also no denying the influence of a woman who opened the doors for so many others. As she said, she "never realised … that women were supposed to be the inferior sex". Quite.

University Challenge

BBC2, 8.30pm

It's the final of this year's contest, but this is much more than a tussle between the universities of Bristol and Durham — it's also Jeremy Paxman's last episode. After 28 years the great man, who has Parkinson's disease, is bidding farewell and it is a characteristically low-key affair. "We're all old hands at this so let's just get on with it," he says. After the trophy is presented by the writer Jung Chang, with a moving plea to the contestants to make the world better, our man signs off with even less fuss. The show returns later this year with Amol Rajan asking the questions.

Once Upon a Time Northern Ireland

BBC2, 9pm

This captivating series that allows ordinary people to recall their experiences of the Troubles continues with the music entrepreneur Terri Hooley. He remembers his beloved Belfast hosting the Rolling Stones and Jimi Hendrix. "And then the Troubles. I couldn't believe how quickly my lovely city became divided." Despair reached new heights when Hooley saw legs and limbs being shovelled into body bags on July 21, 1972, after a concerted IRA bombing campaign that became known as "Bloody Friday".

Film Goodfellas

BBC2, 10pm

Starring Robert De Niro and Joe Pesci, this is definitive Martin Scorsese, telling the story of the mobster turned informant Henry Hill (Ray Liotta) with dizzying abandon and breathtaking precision. And the music? It's the best soundtrack ever. (18, 1990)

Sky Max

6.00am Bondi Rescue (r) **8.30** A League of Their Own: US Road Trip 2.0 (r) (AD) **1.30pm** The 90s: Cinema's Greatest Decade (r) (AD) **2.30 FILM: The Spy Next Door (PG, 2010)** Comedy starring Jackie Chan and Magnus Scheving **4.30** Enter the Spider-Verse: A Spider-Man Special (r) **5.00** Harry Potter 20th Anniversary: Return to Hogwarts (r) (AD) **7.00** Football's Funniest Moments. Comical incidents from the Premier League (r) (AD) **8.00** NCIS: Los Angeles. The team suspects four shootings are connected to the Drona Project (r) **9.00** Poker Face. A casino cocktail waitress investigates the death of her friend (1/10) (r) **10.20** Poker Face. Charlie is forced to make a pitstop in New Mexico (2/10) (r) **11.40** Last King of the Cross. John begins to turn his dreams into a reality (r) **12.55am** Bel-Air. Will is suspended (r) **2.00** The Flash. Iris is alarmed by Barry's disappearance **3.00** NCIS: New Orleans (r) **4.00** Road Wars (r) **5.00** Highway Patrol (r) (AD)

Sky Atlantic

6.00am The Guest Wing (r) (AD) **7.55** Game of Thrones. Back-to-back episodes (r) (AD) **6.50pm** Game of Thrones. Jon Snow finds himself on trial at Castle Black (r) (AD) **7.55** Game of Thrones. The day of King Joffrey's wedding to Margaery Tyrell arrives (r) (AD) **9.00** Succession. The final episode of the drama. Ahead of the GoJo board vote, Kendall and Shiv shore up their opposing interests and try to get a fix on Roman. *See Viewing Guide* (10/10) (r) **10.40** Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty. Drama chronicling the professional and personal lives of the 1980s Los Angeles Lakers. Starring John C Reilly, Jason Clarke and Quincy Isaiah (1/10) (r) (AD) **11.50** Billions. Lara plans a lavish birthday celebration for Axe, while Wendy deliberates her invitation, and Chuck faces external pressure to drop a case (9/12) (r) (AD) **1.00am** Souls. Jacob causes a scene (r) **2.00** White House Plumbers (r) **3.05** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **4.10** The Guest Wing (r) (AD)

Sky Documentaries

6.00am The Movies (r) (AD) **7.00** Discovering: Anthony Hopkins (r) **8.00** The Directors (r) **9.00** The Seventies (r) (AD) **10.00** Spector (r) (AD) **12.00** United Skates (r) **1.45pm** My Icon: Denise Lewis (r) (AD) **2.00 FILM: The Capote Tapes (15, 2019)** Profile of the life of the author **4.00** The Directors. John Frankenheimer (r) **5.00** Discovering: Anthony Hopkins (r) **6.00** The Seventies (r) (AD) **7.00** Spector. Documentary about music producer Phil Spector (1/4) (r) (AD) **8.00** Spector. A look at how Phil Spector gained a sinister reputation (2/4) (r) (AD) **9.00 FILM: Hitsville — The Making of Motown (12, 2019)** Painting a picture of the history and origins of Motown **11.10** The Man Who Played with Fire (3/4) (r) **12.10am** The Lawman (r) (AD) **1.50** My Icon: Chris Hughton (r) (AD) **2.00 FILM: The Fight (12, 2020)** Documentary about the American Civil Liberties Union **4.00** The Directors (r) **5.00** Discovering: Anthony Hopkins (r)

Sky Arts

6.00am Tales of Offenbach **7.15** Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** Discovering: Joan Crawford (AD) **12.00** Buddy Holly: Music Icons **12.30pm** Dusty Springfield: Music Icons **1.00** The Beach Boys: Endless Harmony **3.10** Elvis Presley: A Legend in Concert **4.05** Discovering: Buster Keaton (AD) **5.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **6.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **6.30** Alfred Hitchcock Presents. A detective investigates a murder at a run-down theatre **7.00** Discovering: Peter O'Toole (AD) **8.00** Katharine Hepburn: Call Me Kate. A profile of the actress. *See Viewing Guide* **10.00** Discovering: Jane Fonda **11.00** The Legendary Bing Crosby (AD) **12.15am** Frank Sinatra: Concert for the Americas. The singer's appearance in 1982 **2.15** Why Do We Dance? **3.30** The South Bank Show **4.30** Auction: Sir Winston Churchill Special **5.00** Video Killed the Radio Star

Sky Main Event

6.00am Sky Sports News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **10.00** The Football Show **11.30** Ref Watch **12.00** The Football Show **1.00pm** Sky Sports News **2.00** Live EFL: Barnsley v Sheffield Wednesday (Kick-off **3.00**). Coverage of the League One play-off final at Wembley Stadium **6.00** Sky Sports News **6.30** Live Vitality T20 Blast Cricket: Durham v Nottinghamshire Outlaws. Coverage of the North Group encounter comes from Seat Unique Riverside, Chester-le-Street **10.00** Sky Sports News **10.30** Back Pages Tonight. A look at the sports headlines in tomorrow's newspapers **11.00** Sky Sports News **12.30am** NBA Basketball. A look ahead to the evening's NBA action **1.30** Live NBA Basketball: Boston Celtics v Miami Heat (Tip-off **1.30**). Coverage of game seven of the Eastern Conference finals comes from TD Garden **4.00** Inside the NBA. Post-game analysis of an NBA match **5.00** Sky Sports News

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TalkTV

6.00am Cristo. Wake up to the news that matters to you **6.30** David Bull. The presenter brings you the biggest stories of the day that matter to you **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham. The host takes a look at the morning newspapers **1.00pm** Mark Saggers. Hard-hitting monologues, stimulating debates and dedicated time for your calls **4.00** Rosie Wright and Kevin O'Sullivan. The hosts discuss current affairs and the stories that matter with big-name guests, exclusive interviews, and your thoughts on what's got the nation talking **7.00** Jeremy Kyle. Discussion **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored. The host presents his verdict on the day's global events with debate, straight-talking interviews with the world's leading figures, and plenty of fun **9.00** The Talk. A panel of famous faces from the worlds of politics, showbiz, business and current affairs debate hot topics **10.00** First Edition **11.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **12.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Jeremy Kyle **2.00** Rosie Wright and Kevin O'Sullivan **3.00** Piers Morgan **4.00** The Talk **5.00** James Max

BBC4

7.00pm The Pennine Way. The adventurer Paul Rose explores the 268-mile national trail, revealing how the route was first opened (1/4) **7.30** Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain. The steeplejack tours castles of north Wales (2/6) **8.00** Italy's Invisible Cities. Using 3D technology, Alexander Armstrong and Dr Michael Scott explore the hidden side of Florence, and uncover the history of the birthplace of the Italian renaissance. Last in the series **9.00** Britain's Lost Masterpieces. Emma Dabiri and Bendor Grosvenor travel to Glasgow to investigate a long-lost picture of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, who was the lover of James VI of Scotland, possibly painted by one of the most famous artists in history **10.00** Britain's Biggest Warship. Life on board aircraft carrier *HMS Queen Elizabeth* (1/3) **11.00** Kate Prince: Imagine. Alan Yentob meets the dancer and choreographer Kate Prince as she prepares for her project *Message in a Bottle*, a West End production set to the songs of Sting **12.05am** The Pennine Way **12.35** Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain **1.05** Italy's Invisible Cities **2.05-3.05** Britain's Lost Masterpieces

Talking Pictures

6.00am FILM: Charlie Chan at the Circus (U, 1936) Mystery starring Warner Oland (b/w) **7.25 FILM: Mantrap (PG, 1953)** Mystery starring Paul Henreid (b/w) **9.05 FILM: Here Come The Huggetts (U, 1948)** Comedy sequel starring Jack Warner (b/w) **10.50 FILM: Wing and a Prayer (PG, 1944)** Second World War drama starring Don Ameche (b/w) **12.45pm FILM: Doctor in the House (PG, 1954)** Comedy starring Dirk Bogarde **2.30** Crown Court **3.00 FILM: The Bargee (PG, 1964)** Comedy with Harry H Corbett **5.10** Swinging UK **5.45** When Mike Met Tommy **6.00** The Footage Detectives **7.00** The Champions **8.00** The Main Chance **9.00 FILM: Trapped (PG, TVM, 1973)** Thriller starring James Brolin **10.50** Secret Army **11.55** Crown Court **12.25am** Crown Court **1.25 FILM: The New Kids (15, 1985)** Thriller starring Lori Loughlin **3.15 FILM: The Greed of William Hart (PG, 1948)** Horror starring Tod Slaughter (b/w) **4.50** The Edgar Wallace Mystery Theatre

Film4

11.00am Sister Act (PG, 1992) (AD) **1.05pm Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit (PG, 1993)** (AD) **3.15** Men in Black 3 Interview Special **3.25 The Great Escape (PG, 1963)** Second World War drama with Steve McQueen **6.55 Men in Black (PG, 1997)** A cop joins a secret force policing aliens on Earth, and teams up with a veteran partner to track down a giant insect. Sci-fi comedy starring Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones and Linda Fiorentino (AD) **8.45** The Favourite Interview Special **9.00 Let Him Go (15, 2020)** A retired sheriff and his wife, grieving over the death of their son, set out to find their only grandson. Crime drama starring Kevin Costner and Diane Lane **11.15 The Long Good Friday (18, 1980)** A London crime lord tries to extend his empire, but finds himself foiled at every turn by rivals keen to see the end of his reign. Gritty thriller starring Bob Hoskins and Helen Mirren **1.30am-3.40 Mean Machine (15, 2001)** A jailed football star is persuaded by the prison authorities to form an inmates soccer team to play against the guards. Comedy drama starring Vinnie Jones and David Hemmings

More4

8.55am Kirstie's Vintage Gems **9.15** A Place in the Sun **10.05** A New Life in the Sun. A couple launch a luxury B&B in France **11.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (AD) **1.10pm** Heir Hunters **3.10** Four in a Bed **5.50** Escape to the Château. A British family moves to a French château (AD) **6.55** The Dog House. Documentary set inside Woodgreen animal charity (AD) **7.55** Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows the progress of a family who want to create an ambitious super home on a seaside plot on the Isle of Wight (3/9) (AD) **9.00** Car SOS. Tim and Fuzz take on a carpenter's 1980 Ford Escort RS2000 (AD) **10.00** Inside Jaguar: Making a Million Pound Car. Mark Evans follows the creation of the Lightweight E-type, the manufacturer's most expensive car ever (AD) **11.00** Billion Pound Cruise. Compilation episode looking behind the scenes of the *Symphony of the Seas*, featuring some of the 2,200 crew members that work on the mammoth ship (AD) **12.05am** 24 Hours in A&E (AD) **1.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **2.15** 24 Hours in A&E (AD) **3.20-3.50** A Place in the Sun

ITV2

6.00am World's Funniest Videos **6.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **7.00** Love Bites (AD, SL) **8.00** Celebrity Supermarket Sweep (AD) **8.50 FILM: Cats & Dogs — The Revenge of Kitty Galore (U, 2010)** Comedy sequel with Chris O'Donnell (AD) **10.30 FILM: Rio 2 (U, 2014)** Animated comedy sequel with the voice of Jesse Eisenberg **12.35pm** Catchphrase Celebrity Special (AD) **1.35** Family Fortunes **2.40 FILM: Goosebumps (PG, 2015)** Fantasy adventure starring Jack Black (AD) **4.45 FILM: Yogi Bear (U, 2010)** Comedy with the voice of Dan Aykroyd **6.25 FILM: Shazam! (12, 2019)** Comedy adventure starring Zachary Levi (AD) **9.00** Family Guy (AD) **9.30** Family Guy (AD) **10.00** Family Guy (AD) **10.30** Family Guy (AD) **11.00** Family Guy (AD) **11.30** American Dad! (AD) **12.25am** Bob's Burgers (AD) **1.25** Superstore (AD) **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records (SL) **2.50** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3

6.00am Classic Emmerdale **7.05** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **8.15** On the Buses **9.25 FILM: Bugsy Malone (U, 1976)** Musical gangster comedy starring Scott Baio and Jodie Foster **11.20** Heartbeat (AD) **1.35pm** Classic Emmerdale **2.35** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **3.45** Foyle's War (AD) **5.55** Heartbeat (AD) **6.55** Heartbeat. PC Ventress's old commando unit turns up with an old score to settle (AD) **8.00** Vera. DCI Vera Stanhope finds a kindred spirit in the son of a murdered woman and comes to realise the key to the case is hidden deep in his memory (4/4) (AD) **10.00** Scott & Bailey. A man acquitted of rape and murder is found dead and the prime suspect is a woman who testified against him in court, while Rachel gets devastating news (3/6) (AD) **11.05** Scott & Bailey. Three weeks after reporting her husband missing, a porn star is arrested on suspicion of his murder. Meanwhile, Janet's affair is exposed. Detective drama with Lesley Sharp and Suranne Jones (4/6) (AD) **12.05am** Inspector Morse. Murder delays an Oxford cricket match (AD, SL) **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

6.00am The Best of the 90s **6.15** The Protectors (SL) **6.45** Minder (AD) **7.55** The Professionals (AD, SL) **9.00** English Football League Highlights **10.00** Great Racehorses **10.20** The Protectors **10.55** Magnum, PI **12.00 FILM: The Sea Wolves (PG, 1980)** Fact-based Second World War adventure with Gregory Peck (AD) **2.25pm FILM: Battle of Britain (PG, 1969)** Second World War drama starring Laurence Olivier (AD) **5.05 FILM: 633 Squadron (PG, 1964)** Second World War drama starring Cliff Robertson (AD) **7.10 FILM: The Scorpion King (PG, 2002)** Fantasy action adventure starring Dwayne Johnson and Steven Brand (AD) **9.00** Isle of Man TT: Hutchy TT Legend **10.00** English Football League Highlights. Barnsley v Sheffield Wednesday in the League One play-off final, at Wembley Stadium **11.00** River Monsters **11.30** River Monsters (AD) **12.00** Isle of Man TT: Hutchy TT Legend **1.05am** Motorsport UK **2.05** The Protectors (SL) **2.35** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

Drama

6.00am Teleshopping **7.15** Pie in the Sky **8.05** Lovejoy **9.15** Classic Holby City **10.35** Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.40pm** Classic EastEnders **2.00** Father Brown. Four back-to-back episodes of the 1950s-set crime drama (AD) **6.00** Father Brown The sleuthing priest sets out to solve the murder of a local aeronautics magnate's son. Robert Daws guest stars (AD) **7.00** Father Brown. The clerical sleuth encounters a voodoo priest (AD) **8.00** The Last Detective. Obstinate traditionalist Detective "Dangerous" Davies is forced to prove his mettle when a routine inquiry uncovers an unsolved murder case (1/4) (AD) **10.15** New Tricks. The detectives meet their new boss, DCI Sasha Miller, who wastes no time getting on with her first case — the ritualistic killing of an Italian immigrant (9/10) (AD) **11.35** Silent Witness. Forensic pathologist Sam Ryan is assigned to investigate the case of two murdered girls whose frozen bodies have been uncovered by an avalanche in Norway **1.50am** Rebellion. New series. Historical drama **3.00** Classic Holby City (SL) **4.00** Teleshopping

Yesterday

6.10am Impossible Engineering (AD) **8.00** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **9.00** World War Weird **10.00** Great British Railway Journeys **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain **12.00** Great Continental Railway Journeys **1.00pm** Great British Railway Journeys **2.00** Bangers and Cash **4.00** World War Weird **5.00** Great British Railway Journeys. Two editions **6.00** Inside the Factory. Gregg Wallace visits a cherry Bakewell factory in Stoke on Trent **7.00** Bangers and Cash. A convertible Triumph Herald brings a few smiles on auction day (3/10) **8.00** How To Build A Motor Car. A team of plucky Brits try to prove that they have built the world's fastest car **9.00** Abandoned Engineering. A jaw-dropping collection of castles in Turkey (3/8) (AD) **10.00** Bangers and Cash. A Roller and a Rover go under the hammer and a 1966 Triumph Spitfire is restored (2/10) **11.00** Abandoned Engineering (2/12) (AD) **12.00** Great British Railway Journeys **1.00am** Impossible Engineering (AD) **2.00** Forbidden History (AD) **3.00** Teleshopping

Variations

BBC1 N Ireland
As BBC1 except: **6.00pm-6.30** Family Footsteps **10.30** The Peninsula Nurses **11.00** Bump **11.30** Have I Got a Bit More News for You (r) **12.15am** Radio 1's Big Weekend Best Bits **1.15-6.00** BBC News

BBC1 Scotland
As BBC1 except: **7.30pm-8.00** Scotland's Home of the Year **10.30** EastEnders (AD) **11.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **11.45** Radio 1's Big Weekend Best Bits. Featuring the 1975, Lewis Capaldi, Raye, Anne-Marie, Becky Hill and the Jonas Brothers **12.50am-6.00** BBC News

BBC1 Wales
As BBC1 except: **6.00pm-6.30** The World's Most Expensive Sheepdogs — Our Lives (r) **7.00-7.30** Weatherman Walking **10.30** Rookie Nurses (r) **11.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You (r) **11.45** Radio 1's Big Weekend Best Bits. Featuring the 1975, Lewis Capaldi, Raye, Anne-Marie, Becky Hill and the Jonas Brothers **12.45am-6.00** BBC News

BBC2 N Ireland
As BBC2 except: **10.00pm** 999 Faoi Oiliúint **10.30** Rebels of Oz: Germaine, Clive, Barry and Bob. Part two of two. How the four Australians found fame (r) (AD) **11.35-12.20am** Sign Zone: Dr Xand's Con or Cure. Putting the three-second-rule to the test (r)

BBC2 Wales
As BBC2 except: **7.00pm-7.30** The One Show

ITV1 Wales
As ITV1 except: **10.25pm-11.25** Love Your Garden. Alan Titchmarsh and his team transform a garden in Enfield, London (r) (AD)

STV
As ITV1 except: **4.40am-5.35** Night Vision

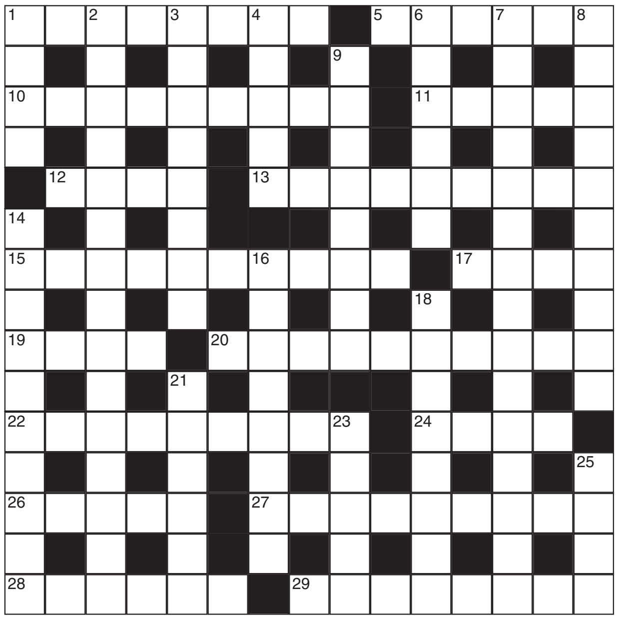
BBC Scotland
2.00pm Sign Zone: Beechgrove Garden (r) **2.30** Sign Zone: Landward (r) **3.00-4.00** Sign Zone: Inside the Zoo (r) (AD) **7.00** Beechgrove Garden (r) **7.30** Landward. Visiting Tweed Forest Park (r) **8.00** Trawlermen: Hunting the Catch (r) (AD) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** River City (AD) **10.30** The Scotts (r) **11.00-12.00** Sky High Club: Scotland and Beyond (r) (AD)

BBC Alba
6.00am Alba Today **5.00pm** Treubh an Tuathanais (Big Barn Farm) (r) **5.15** Su Pic (Peek Zoo) (r) **5.25** AH-AH/No-No **5.35** Pip & Posy **5.45** 'S E Iasg a Th'Annam (I'm a Fish) (r) **5.50** Piseag & Cuilean/Kit & Pup (r) **5.55** Stòiridh (r) **6.00** Port Pàipeir (r) **6.15** A' Chuil (r) **6.20** Bogaisean is Gumbalan/Bottersnikes and Gumbles **6.30** Damhan & Durrag/Pipas & Douglas (r) **6.35** Na Dana-thursan aig Tintin/The Adventures of Tintin (r) **7.00** An t-Eilean (From Skye with Love) (r) **7.30** SpeakGaelic (r) **8.00** An Là (News) **8.15** Binneas — Na Trads (r) **8.30** Gàrradh Phàdruig (r) **9.00** Trusadh (Compelling Stories) (r) **10.00** Solas — Margaret Fay Shaw of Canna (r) **10.30** Macleod MP/Maclean KGB (r) **11.30** Na Millenni-Gaels (r) **12.00-6.00am** Alba Today

S4C
6.00am Cyw: Blociau Rhif (r) **6.05** Halibalw (r) **6.15** Twt (r) **6.30** Da 'Di Dona (r) **6.40** Jen a Jim Pob Dim (r) **6.55** Caru Canu a Stori (r) **7.05** Tomos a'i Ffrindiau **7.20** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **7.30** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **7.45** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **8.00** Bing (r) **8.10** Cymylaubychain (r) **8.20** Stiw (r) **8.35** Nico Nôg (r) **8.45** Fferm Fach (r) **9.00** Timpo (r) **9.10** Cei Bach (r) **9.25** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **9.35** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **9.45** Y Diwrnod Mawr (r) **10.00** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **10.10** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **10.20** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **10.30** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd. Coverage of the Urdd Gobaith Cymru National Eisteddfod **12.00** News; Weather **12.05pm** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd. Further coverage **1.55** News; Weather **2.00** Live Urdd: Defod y Cadeirio **2.30** Live Eisteddfod yr Urdd **6.00** Copsan (AD) **6.15** Cynefin (r) **6.30** Pobol y Penwythnos (r) **6.57** News **7.00** Heno **7.45** News; Weather **8.00** Eisteddfod yr Urdd **9.30** Ffermio **10.00** Nôl i'r Gwersyll (r) **11.00** Sgwrs Dan y Lloer (r) **11.30-1.00am** Eisteddfod yr Urdd (r)

MindGames

General Knowledge Crossword No 183



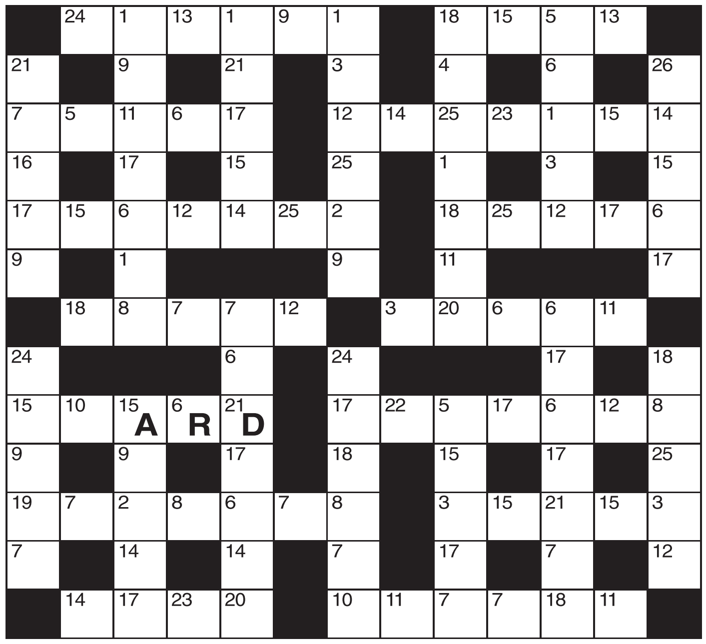
Across
1 Cocktail, such as a screwdriver, served in a tall tumbler (8)
5 French artist admired for his depictions of English Victorian society (6)
10 Everyday foodstuff developed by the chemist Hippolyte Mège-Mouriès in the 1860s (9)
11 Mazurka or gavotte, eg (5)
12 Horse breeding farm (4)
13 Compound released by the body in allergic reactions (9)
15 Region over which the rivers Wensum and Orwell flow (4,6)
17 Common type of heather (4)
19 --- Leith, judge on *The Great British Bake Off* (4)
20 Home secretary from July 2019 to September 2022 (5,5)
22 Austria's currency before the introduction of the euro (9)
24 City of Normandy with a ferry link to Portsmouth (4)
26 Scarlett ---, heroine of *Gone with the Wind* (5)
27 Coastal city south of Los Angeles (4,5)
28 Fortified wine from grapes grown near Jerez in Spain (6)
29 Undertaking that faulty goods will be replaced or repaired (8)

Down
1 Enlightenment philosopher born in Edinburgh in 1711 (4)
2 Football manager appointed following Sam Allardyce's dismissal after one game (6,9)
3 Chris ---, gold-winning British cyclist at the 1992 Olympics (8)
4 Janet ---, star of the infamous shower scene in *Psycho* (5)
6 Nationality of the novelists Roy, Adiga and Seth (6)
7 Film musical with Gene Kelly and Debbie Reynolds (6,2,3,4)
8 Chekhov drama about a group of writers and performers (3,7)
9 One possible result of the Doppler effect in physics (8)
14 Groundbreaking punk band fronted by Johnny Rotten (3,7)
16 Jim Davis's cartoon feline (8)
18 Key usually struck with the thumb in touch-typing (5-3)
21 Author of the 1980 novella *A Month in the Country* (1,1,4)
23 City of NW Italy, formerly an independent republic (5)
25 Watery residue left after milk curdles (4)

Last week's solution



Codeword No 4913



~~A~~ B C ~~D~~ E F G H I J K L M N O P Q ~~R~~ S T U V W X Y Z

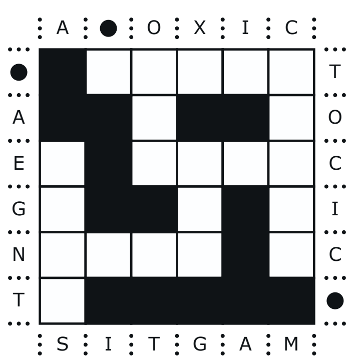
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
					R							
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	A						D					

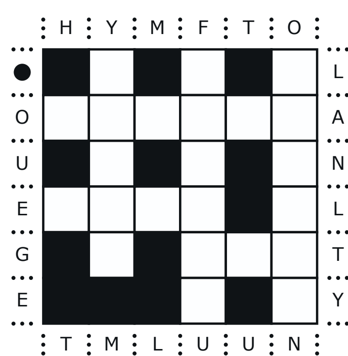
Every letter in this crossword-style grid has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Saturday's solution, right*

Cluelines Stuck on Codeword? To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

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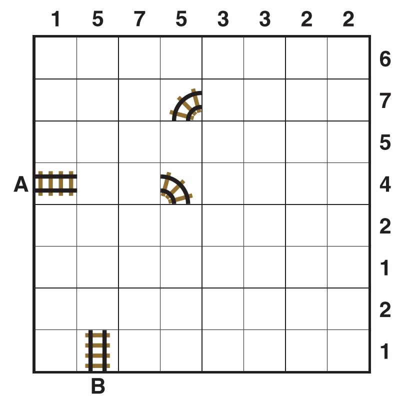
Lexica No 6891 No 6892





Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

Train Tracks No 1948



Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.

Quintagram®

Solve all five **cryptic** clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Talk idly about king's clothes (4)

_ _ _ _

2 File kept in order, as promised (4)

_ _ _ _

3 Family affair (5)

_ _ _ _ _

4 Something for bed, kinky thing, good to have (9)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Unfortunate dilemma after daughter makes relish (4,6)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

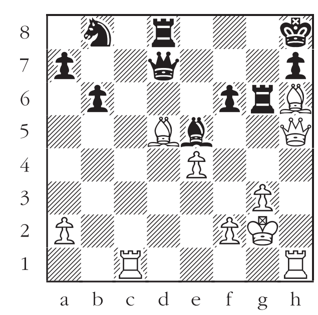
A	A	B	C	D	E	E	G
G	G	H	I	I	I	I	K
L	L	L	N	N	O	P	P
R	R	S	S	S	T	U	W

Challenge your mind with puzzle books from The Times



thetimes.co.uk/bookshop

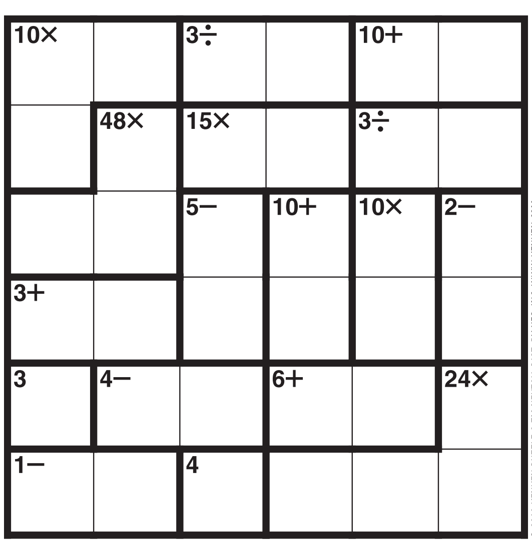
Winning Move



White to play.
This position is from Roselli Mailhe-Coppola, Montevideo 2023.

Thanks to the powerful bishop pair and open h-file, White has a strong kingside initiative. How were these factors quickly exploited to decide the game in White's favour?

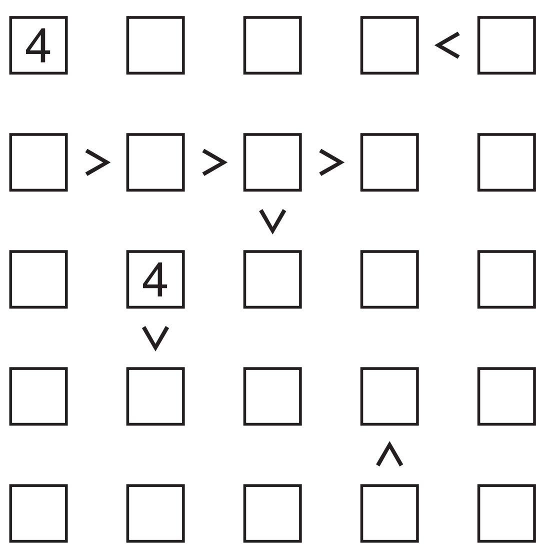
KenKen Easy No 5905



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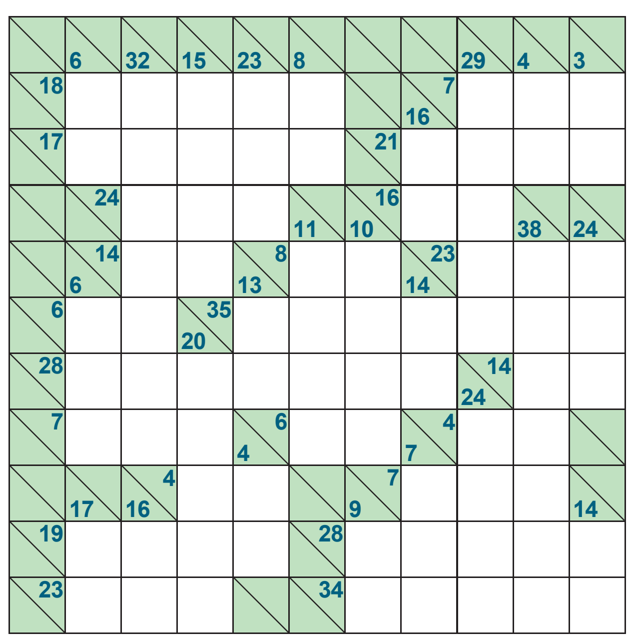
All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Futoshiki No 4486



Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

Kakuro No 3445

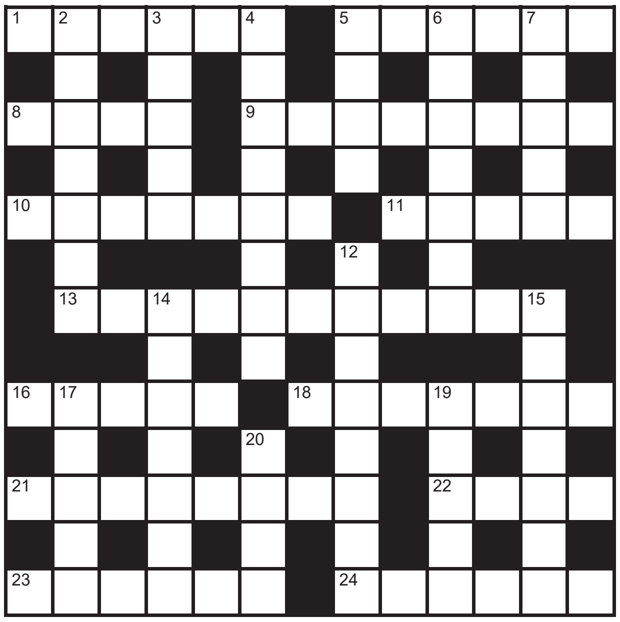


Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

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MindGames

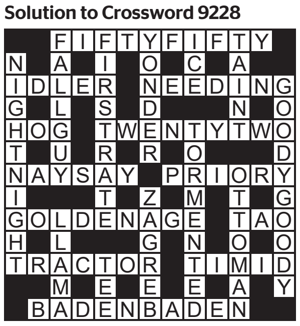
times2 Crossword No 9229



Across
1 --- Brothers, aviation pioneers (6)
5 Cook in ignited brandy (6)
8 Deprived of sensation (4)
9 Hold back (8)
10 Observe at first hand (7)
11 Poetry (5)
13 Included comprehensively (11)
16 Puppy (5)
18 Succinct (7)
21 Deliberately destructive act (8)
22 Therefore (4)
23 Small carnivorous mammal (6)
24 Elfin being (6)

Down
2 Everyday, habitual (7)
3 Equatorial country (5)
4 Tedious (8)
5 Palaver, commotion (4)
6 Poorly ventilated (7)
7 Euphoria (5)
12 Female aristocratic title (8)
14 Insensitive (7)
15 Repulsion (7)
17 Lift or throw with effort (5)
19 Provide food (for) (5)
20 Sphere; dance (4)

Solution to Crossword 9228



Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Bridge Andrew Robson

Players travelled from as far as Brazil, Portugal, Sweden, Norway, France, Papua New Guinea and Germany (OK so I made one of those up) to Bristol, the 2023 venue for the Schapiro Spring Foursomes, the UK's most prestigious annual event. Three members of my team had just returned from a big win on the continent. Would they be tired and jaded post-victory? Or on a roll, confidence high? Over the next couple of weeks, we'll find out.

Meantime, on this deal from the second round, partner Alexander Allfrey and I conducted a rather lengthy sequence. Have you ever had a longer auction? One thing's for sure: I can't feature the deal on my daily BridgeCast as there's room in the program for only six lines of bidding — here we have nine.

Declarer won West's club lead with dummy's ace and immediately crossed to the king and ruffed a third club (West discarding a heart; ruffing in with the eight wouldn't really help the defence). Declarer cashed the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart. He then cashed the ace-king of spades, ruffed a spade (low) and was now certain of success via a high cross-ruff.

Declarer ruffed a third heart (he'd have ruffed with the king if East had followed). He then ruffed his fourth spade with the queen. His last three cards were ♦AK10 and he wasn't in the least bothered if he ruffed a fourth heart with the ten and West overruffed with the jack. Twelve tricks and slam made.

Dealer: South, Vulnerability: Both

Teams

North: ♠J10 ♥A109873 ♦Q72 ♣A10
West: ♠Q42 ♥KQ52 ♦J843 ♣54
East: ♠9863 ♥J4 ♦6 ♣QJ9876
South: ♠AK75 ♥6 ♦AK1095 ♣K32

S	W	N	E
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣(1)	Dbl(2)
Redbl(3)	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠ (4)	Pass	2NT(5)	Pass
3♣(6)	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠ (7)	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♣(8)	Pass	4♥ (9)	Pass
4♠ (9)	Pass	5♣(9)	Pass
6♦	End		

(1) Fourth Suit Forcing, setting up a game force (North upgrades his 11-count given his fine intermediates, good six-card major, and fit for partner's diamonds).
(2) For the lead.
(3) Suggesting the partnership play 2♣ redoubled should North have four or more (or perhaps three good) clubs. You never know.
(4) Four good spades, and now almost certain to be 4♠ 1♥ 5♦ 3♣ (with four clubs, he'd have bid 3♣ here).
(5) Keen to get the Notrumps in from his side to protect his club holding. Give partner ♣Jxx, and the ♣A10 will form a second stopper with East on lead.
(6) Waiting bid.
(7) His third spade bid — very likely ♠ AKxx.
(8) Control bid — fine to control-bid a king when partner won't have a singleton.
(9) More control bids.

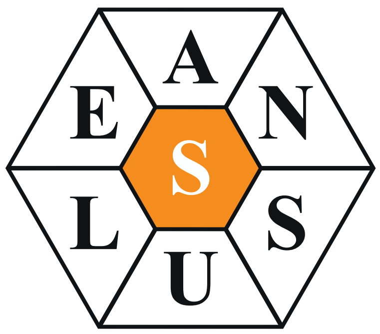
Contract: 6♦, Opening Lead: ♣5

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

Brain Trainer

EASY 64	÷ 8	TREBLE IT	x 5	+ 24	÷ 3	+ 2/3 OF IT	DOUBLE IT	– 76	÷ 12	ANSWER
MEDIUM 158	1/2 OF IT	+ 35	DOUBLE IT	– 18	÷ 30	CUBE IT	+ 59	+ 1/2 OF IT	x 7	ANSWER
HARDER 256	÷ 8	x 9	+ 3/4 OF IT	5/8 OF IT	x 5	+ 834	+ 2/3 OF IT	– 990	÷ 55	ANSWER

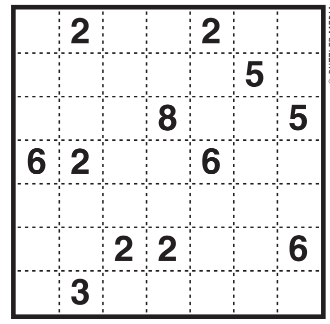
Polygon



From these letters, make words of **three** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.
How you rate 10 words, average; 14, good; 19, very good; 24, excellent

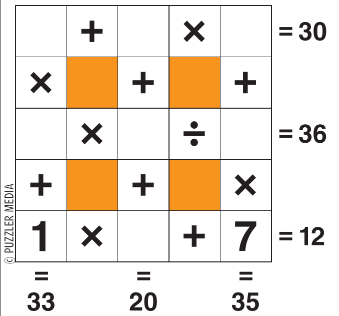
Saturday's answers
eminent, imine, **impenitent**, inept, innit, intent, mien, mine, mini, mint, mitten, neem, neep, nene, nett, nine, nite, peen, pein, penitent, penne, penni, pent, pine, pinene, pint, teen, tein, tenet, tenné, tenpin, tent, tiepin, tine, tinnie, tint

Cell Blocks No 4796



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

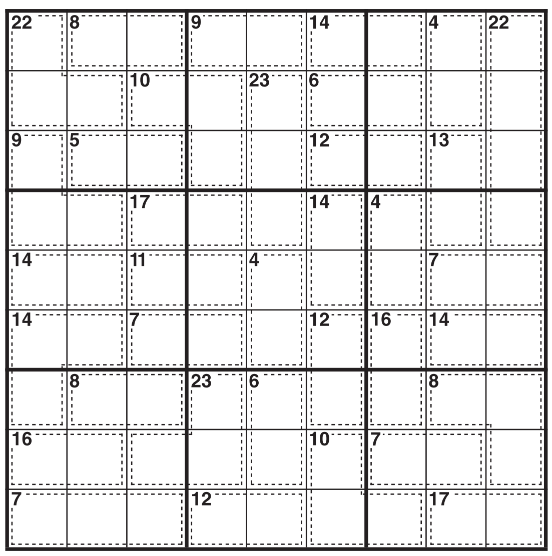
Set Square No 3448



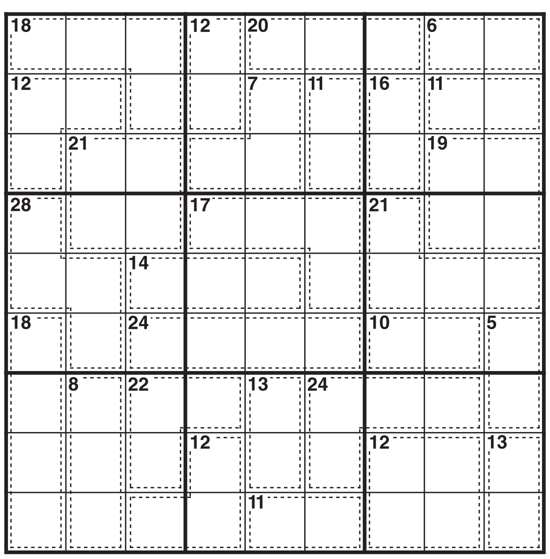
Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

Killer Gentle No 8897



Killer Tricky No 8898

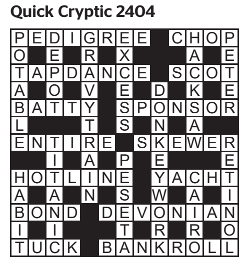


As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

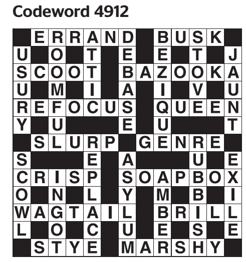
Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Solutions

Quick Cryptic 2404



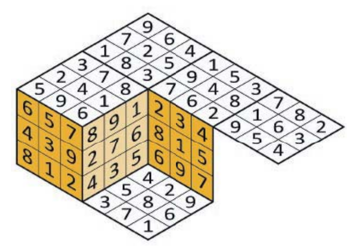
Codeword 4912



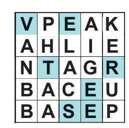
Kakuro 3444



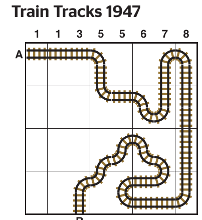
Tredoku 1787



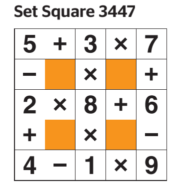
Square Routes 220



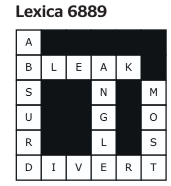
Train Tracks 1947



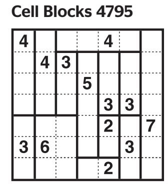
Set Square 3447



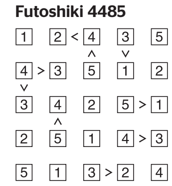
Lexica 6889



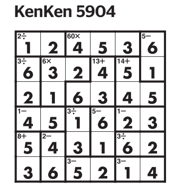
Cell Blocks 4795



Futoshiki 4485



KenKen 5904



Lexica 6890



Sudoku 14,072

8	7	6	5	9	3	4	1	2
5	4	1	7	8	2	3	6	9
2	9	3	1	4	6	5	7	8
9	3	8	6	2	4	7	5	1
6	2	5	8	1	7	9	3	4
7	1	4	9	3	5	2	8	6
3	8	9	4	7	1	6	2	5
1	5	7	2	6	9	8	4	3
4	6	2	3	5	8	1	9	7

Killer 8896

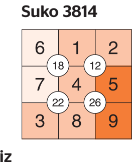
2	6	7	1	3	5	9	8	4
3	9	5	6	4	8	2	7	1
4	8	1	7	2	9	5	6	3
9	1	2	4	5	7	6	3	8
7	3	6	8	1	2	4	5	9
5	4	8	3	9	6	7	1	2
1	2	3	5	6	4	8	9	7
6	7	4	9	8	1	3	2	5
8	5	9	2	7	3	1	4	6

Today's solutions

Concise Quintagram
1 Bad
2 Nearly
3 Guilty
4 Cricket
5 Notability

Cryptic Quintagram
1 Garb
2 Rasp
3 Issue
4 Nightgown
5 Dill pickle

Suko 3814



Brain Trainer
Easy 7
Medium 4,221
Harder 55

Word watch
Dipsas (a) A mythical serpent with a bite causing terrible thirst (*Collins*)
Back-blocks (a) Remote sparsely populated country (*Chambers*)
Ectomorph (b) A person of lean build (*OED*)

Chess — Winning Move
1 Qxg6! is crushing as 1 ... hxg6 leads to 2 Bf8+ Qh7 3 Rxh7+ Kxh7 4 Rh1 mate

Quiz
1 Trojan horse **2** Crosswords **3** Lufthansa **4** Joseph Stalin **5** Ed Sheeran **6** Dragon **7** *No Time to Die* **8** Rolls-Royce **9** *The Pursuit of Love* **10** River Plate or Rio de la Plata. The Battle of the River Plate took place on December 13, 1939 **11** Royal christenings **12** Youssef Kerkour **13** White Rajahs of Sarawak **14** Lee Trevino **15** Maximilien Robespierre

THE TIMES

MindGames

29.05.23

For Jumbo crosswords See page 7

Word watch
David Parfitt

Dipsas
a A mythical serpent
b A condiment made from chickpeas
c A mark indicating a double consonant

Back-blocks
a Remote sparsely populated country
b A weightlifting apparatus
c Unfortunate circumstances

Ectomorph
a A shape-shifting phantom
b A person of lean build
c A pain-blocking chemical in the brain

Answers on page 15

Sudoku

Easy No 14,073

1						7		
			7	4	9	1	6	
				3	6		4	5
	2	4				6	1	
6	8	7	3			9	5	
5	3			9			8	
7				5	8			
			4	6	3			
		5	9	7				8

Difficult No 14,074

		3						5
		9				7		
7	5				9			
			9	6	8		7	
			7				4	6
		6	4		3			
	3						8	4
			3	8		5	9	
5				2		6		

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Fiendish No 14,075

								3
9	5					6		
	6	8		1	5			7
					9		6	
2		7	8		6			1
					2		7	
	8	9		2	1			6
4	2					8		
								2

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

The Times Daily Quiz
Olav Bjortomt

1 The Greeks built which huge hollow wooden object to gain entrance into Troy during the Trojan War?

2 A cruciverbalist enjoys solving which puzzles?

3 Which airline is the flag carrier of Germany?

4 The 1994 miniseries *World War II: When Lions Roared* stars Michael Caine as which Soviet leader?

5 Which English singer-songwriter released his sixth studio album, — (*Subtract*), in May?

6 What is the only mythical creature of all the animals in the Chinese zodiac?

ALAMY



7 Lyutsifer Safin (Rami Malek) is the main villain in which 2021 film?

8 Which British carmaker has introduced the Spectre, "the world's first ultra-luxury electric super coupé"?

9 Narrated by Fanny Logan, which 1945 Nancy Mitford novel's heroine is Linda Radlett?

10 In which South American river was the Admiral Graf Spee scuttled after the Second World War's first naval battle?

11 Commissioned by Queen Victoria in 1840, what is the Lily Font used for?

12 Which Moroccan-born actor played the Syrian refugee Sami Ibrahim in the Channel 4 comedy series *Home*?

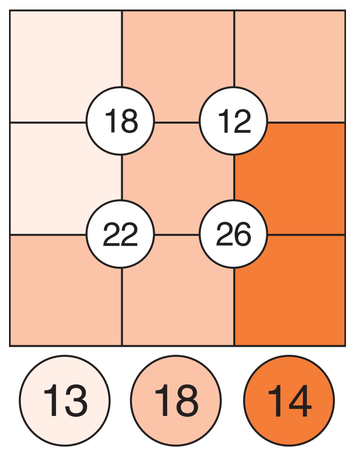
13 Charles Vyner Brooke (1874-1963) was the third and last of which rulers?

14 Which Mexican-American golfer was struck by lightning at the 1975 Western Open?

15 Guillotined in 1794, which French revolutionary is pictured?

Answers on page 15

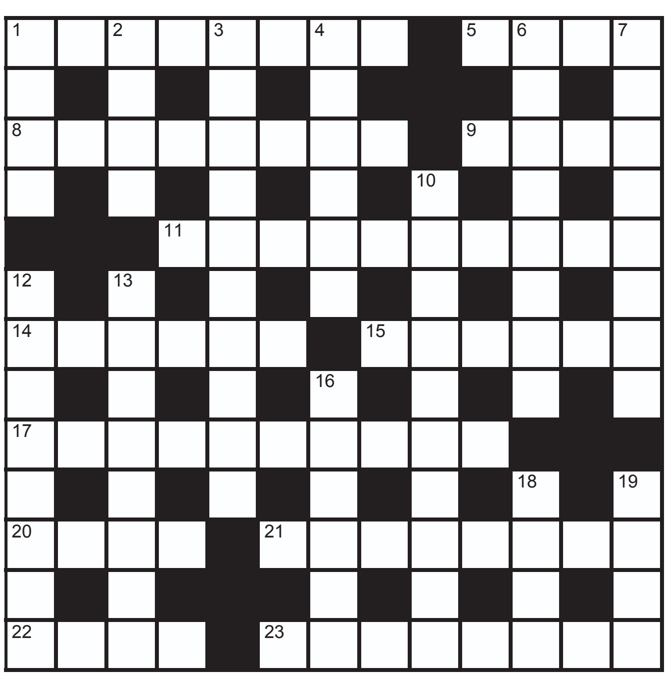
Suko
No 3814



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.co.uk

The Times Quick Cryptic
No 2405 by Orpheus

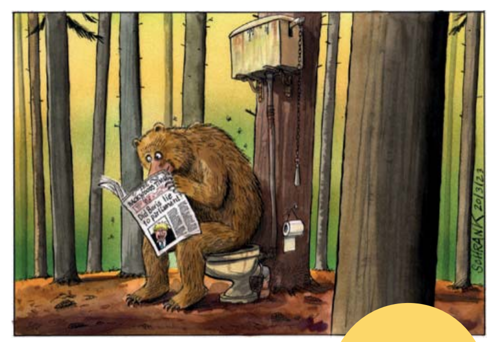


Across
1 Irritable about party mostly — it's a mockery (8)
5 One overwhelmed by graduate's prejudice (4)
8 Galloping Etruscan "horsemen" (8)
9 Maintain stronghold (4)
11 Price hotel fixed for air transport (10)
14 Group of peacekeepers perhaps, and what they may do after flight? (6)
15 Position of sculptures Epstein initially turned out (6)
17 Eg Hannah's daughter after friend in Italian city (10)
20 Scotsman possibly crossing river in Asian republic (4)
21 Conservative leader too old for media exposure (8)
22 Part-song giving rise to impish enjoyment (4)
23 Change position in pub, finding horizontal beam (8)

Down
1 Food for a friar (4)*
2 Composer contributing to popular newsletter (4)
3 Fading Welshman with money touring East (10)
4 Vegetable found in vessel in dump (6)
6 I disclaim concealing songbird's individuality (8)
7 Restrain journalists overcome by drink? (8)
10 Unfathomable — not like *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (10)
12 Give up fish for doughy pudding (8)
13 Leak found by wise man swallowing tablet (8)
16 Keenness more difficult for a Cockney, we hear? (6)
18 Young creature Mike brought into research-room (4)
19 One bound to succeed's reported bearing (4)

Friday's solution on page 15

T GIFTS



ORDER TODAY

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